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HEAR ME OUT



Sen. John Barrasso, R-Wyo., left, and Sen. John Thune, R-S.D., stand with President Donald Trump, Vice President Mike Pence, Sen. Roy Blunt, R-Mo., and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Ky., as Trump speaks while departing after a Senate Republican Policy luncheon, on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2019. Associated Press.

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Comatose woman who had baby is hospitalized, police say

By TERRY TANG, Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — An Arizona woman in a vegetative state who was sexually assaulted at a long-term care facility and had a baby is recovering at a hospital along with her child, authorities said Wednesday. Commenting for the first time on the investigation since the Dec. 29 birth came to light, Phoenix police said finding a suspect is a top priority. Police are gathering DNA from all male employees at the facility. "She was not in a position to give consent to any of this," police spokesman Tommy Thompson said. "So if anyone can understand that, this was a helpless victim who was sexually assaulted." He didn't release the conditions of the woman and child. Hacienda HealthCare owns the care facility and said it

welcomed the DNA testing. Authorities served a search warrant Tuesday. "We will continue to cooperate with Phoenix police and all other investigative agencies to uncover the facts in this deeply disturbing, but unprecedented situation," the company said in a statement.

The case has triggered reviews by state agencies and highlighted safety concerns for severely disabled or incapacitated patients. Local news website Azfamily.com first reported that the woman in a vegetative state for more than 10 years after a near-drowning had given birth. A lawyer for the woman's family said they were outraged at the "neglect of their daughter." It's unclear if staff members at the facility were aware of her pregnancy until the birth. "The family would like me to convey that the

baby boy has been born into a loving family and will be well cared for," Phoenix attorney John Micheals said in a statement.

Officials with the San Carlos Apache tribe of southeastern Arizona said they were "deeply shocked and horrified at the treatment of one of our members," a 29-year-old woman. "When you have a loved one committed to palliative care, when they are most vulnerable and dependent upon others, you trust their caretakers," tribal chairman Terry Rambler said. "Sadly, one of her caretakers was not to be trusted and took advantage of her. It is my hope that justice will be served." San Carlos Apache Police Chief Alejandro Benally said Phoenix police "will do all they can to find the perpetrator." A spokesman for Hacienda HealthCare,

David Leibowitz, said investigators served a search warrant Tuesday to obtain DNA samples from all male staffers — a day after company CEO Bill Timmons stepped down.

Board member Gary Orman said the facility "will accept nothing less than a full accounting of this absolutely horrifying situation." "We will do everything in our power to ensure the safety of every single one of our patients and our employees," Orman said in a statement. The Hacienda facility serves infants, children and young adults who are "medically fragile" or have developmental disabilities, according to its website. After the reports, the Arizona Department of Health Services said new safety measures have been implemented, including increased staff presence

during any patient interaction, more monitoring of patient care areas and additional security measures involving visitors. The state's online complaint database for care facilities shows multiple complaints about the Hacienda center going back to 2013. Most of them involve fire drill and evacuation preparation or Medicaid eligibility.

But one complaint from December 2013 outlines an allegation that a staff member made inappropriate sexual comments about four patients two months earlier. Nobody relayed the incidents to an administrator. That employee was later fired. Martin Solomon, a personal injury attorney in Phoenix whose clients are mostly vulnerable adult victims of abuse and neglect,

Fox News Channel with 8.044 million viewers and CBS with 8.043 million were in a virtual dead heat as the top destination. NBC was third with 7 million, followed by ABC, MSNBC, CNN and Fox broadcasting. □

current and former employees and any past litigation involving Hacienda.

It would be hard for Hacienda to escape any kind of liability in court, he said.

"There's a lot of information we do not have. But things like this don't happen without someone either knowing about it or should have known about it," Solomon said. "Whether it's an employee or someone from the outside, the facility has an obligation to protect residents."

Advocates for people with disabilities say Arizona needs to find a way to monitor allegations of sexual abuse and sexual violence in group settings. Doing background checks isn't enough, said Erica McFadden, executive director of the Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council.

"I think when you've had somebody who's had multiple allegations from different parties, there has to be some way to track that," McFadden said. "If it's the same story from different people, then there's something wrong." The council recently formed a task force to look at how to improve training for health care workers when it comes to identifying and reporting sexual abuse.

"We don't have a systematic way to train people what's a good touch or a bad touch. We also don't have required training for providers," McFadden said. "We really need a lot of work in this area."

Jon Meyers, executive director of The Arc of Arizona, an advocacy group for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, called the allegations "disturbing, to put it mildly." □

Nielsen says 35 million people watched Trump speech



President Donald Trump speaks from the Oval Office of the White House as he gives a prime-time address about border security Tuesday, Jan. 8, 2018, in Washington.

Associated Press.

NEW YORK (AP) — An estimated 35.3 million people saw President Donald Trump and Democratic

leaders speak to the nation on border security and the partial government shutdown. That's about 10 million fewer viewers than

Trump had for his 2018 State of the Union address. The Nielsen company said Wednesday it was similar to President Barack Obama's 2014 presidential address on fighting the Islamic state, which was seen by 34 million people.

There was some internal debate at networks about whether to grant Trump the TV time for Tuesday's speech, but 11 separate networks aired it.

Fox News Channel with 8.044 million viewers and CBS with 8.043 million were in a virtual dead heat as the top destination. NBC was third with 7 million, followed by ABC, MSNBC, CNN and Fox broadcasting. □



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No easy way out? Trump boxed in by politics amid shutdown

From Front

By STEVE PEOPLES, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — There is no easy way out. As the third government shutdown of President Donald Trump's tenure stretched into its 19th day, political pressures on Trump and the Democrats have left little room for compromise in the standoff over funding for a border wall. Most prominently, Trump's narrow focus on the desires of his most ardent supporters has him convinced he cannot back off his signature campaign promise without facing backlash. Some powerful Republican allies in Washington and beyond are cheering on his demands for \$5.7 billion funding for the wall, even if some remain uneasy.

For Democrats, broad public skepticism about Trump's case for the wall — combined with a driving push from the base to stand up to the president — has assured them they're on solid ground in refusing to bend. The looming question is whether the impact of the shutdown on government services and the plight of struggling federal workers force Republican lawmakers to break from the president or compel Democrats to budge. Until then, the dispute has given both parties a fast first test in the politics of divided government as they try to trade blame, manage their messages and strike a balance between competing political wings.

Each side appeared dug in even deeper after a White House meeting between Trump and Democratic leaders on Wednesday as the economic livelihoods of some 800,000 federal workers hang in the balance. Trump said he quickly ended the meeting after House Speaker Nancy Pelosi indicated that Democrats would not fund his wall under any circumstances.

Trump's focus now is squarely on his conservative base and its support for the wall that came to symbolize Trump's promise for a hard-line, unrelenting approach to immigration. "He got elected because of that wall," said Trump confidant Jerry Falwell Jr., president of the evangelical Liberty University. Falwell said he has told Trump he's doing the right thing. "I don't think it'll help him at all if he backs down."

White House aides largely agree. Officials maintain the issue is a political winner, though they have urged the president to be more aggressive in making his case to the public — and to any wavering Republican lawmakers.

Trump outlined his argument in graphic terms during a prime-time Oval Office address Tuesday night. While several studies suggest that illegal immigration has no impact on crime rates, the president highlighted horrific crimes committed by immigrants and suggested his wall was needed to prevent this "crisis."

"How much more American blood must we shed before Congress does its job?" asked Trump, who plans to visit the border Thursday. The White House has been searching for options — but not one that involves compromise. The administration has explored the possibility of funding the massive wall without congressional approval by declaring a national emergency or using funds from another department, though such moves would almost certainly trigger a legal challenge and

may push some Republicans in Congress to break. Trump on Wednesday acknowledged the political pressure from within his own party not to back down. "If I did something that was foolish, like gave up on border security, the first ones that would hit me would be my senators — they'd be angry at me. The second ones would be the House. And the third ones would be frankly my base and a lot of Republicans out there and a lot of Democrats that want to see border se-

curity," he told reporters. Vice President Mike Pence got a standing ovation during a closed-door meeting of congressional Republicans on Tuesday after he told them to "stand strong" and cited a C.S. Lewis quote on courage as a virtue. As many as two dozen Republicans — a tiny fraction of the 199 Republicans serving in the House — are expected to join House Democrats this week in passing a bill to start reopening parts of the government. □

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Trump, California spar over money for wildfire relief funds

By KATHLEEN RONAYNE, Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)

— President Donald Trump threatened Wednesday to withhold money to help California cope with wildfires, a day after new Gov. Gavin Newsom asked him to double the federal investment in forest management.

Trump again suggested poor forest management is to blame for California's deadly wildfires and said he's ordered the Federal Emergency Management Agency to stop giving the state money "unless they get their act together."

Fire scientists say climate change, not poor forest management, is the driving contributor to California's increasingly destructive wildfires, many of which have not been primarily in forests.

FEMA could not immediately comment because of the government shut-



In this Nov. 17, 2018 file photo, President Donald Trump talks with Gov.-elect Gavin Newsom, left, as California Gov. Jerry Brown listens during a visit to a neighborhood impacted by the Camp wildfire in Paradise, Calif.

down. Trump has previously threatened to withhold wildfire payments but never followed through.

Hours after Trump's tweet, the state's emergency operations agency said FEMA is extending its deadline for victims of deadly November wildfires to seek assistance.

Newsom, a Democrat who

took office Monday, said Californians affected by wildfires "should not be victims to partisan bickering." Several Republican lawmakers who represent the town of Paradise, which was leveled by a fire in November that killed 86 people, said Trump's tweet was not helpful.

"These are American citi-

zens who need our help," U.S. Rep. Doug LaMalfa said.

But Republican House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, of California, defended Trump's comments on forest management and did not criticize his threat to withhold funding. McCarthy said he'll propose more money for forest management as part of Democratic spending bills this week to reopen the government. But Republicans ultimately don't plan to back the spending bills.

Newsom and Govs. Jay Inslee and Kate Brown of Washington and Oregon, respectively, on Tuesday sent a letter to the president asking him to double federal funding for forest management. California has pledged \$1 billion over the next five years to ramp up its efforts, which include clearing dead trees that can serve as fuel.

Lawmakers approved that

money last year, and Newsom said Tuesday he'll add an extra \$105 million in his upcoming budget for wildfire-related spending.

More than half of California's 33 million acres of forest are managed by the federal government, and the letter noted the U.S. Forest Service's budget has steadily decreased since 2016. State and local governments own just 3 percent of forests and the rest is owned by private owners and Native American tribes, according to the University of California.

"Our significant state-level efforts will not be as effective without a similar commitment to increased wildland management by you, our federal partners," the letter read.

Newsom's office didn't immediately respond to requests for comment about how much money the state has received from FEMA following recent wildfires. □

Denver unveils new system for clearing marijuana convictions

By KATHLEEN FOODY, Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — Denver on Wednesday became the latest city in the nation to take steps to eliminate low-level marijuana convictions in places where the drug is now legal, acknowledging the barriers that such offenses pose to minority, low-income and other people. Denver officials said Colorado law doesn't allow them to go as far as some other cities and states in automatically dismissing or pardoning convictions.

Instead, they unveiled a program allowing thousands of people to avoid costly legal action by filling out an online form or at-



In this Wednesday, Oct. 11, 2017, file photograph, a worker waters marijuana plants at the Colorado Harvest Company in Denver.

tending an event to start the process with help from city officials.

Such efforts across the country are intended to

help repair problems that strict enforcement of marijuana laws caused in finding jobs and housing. "This is about equity for our com-

munities of color and individuals who were disproportionately impacted by low-level marijuana convictions that are no longer crimes in Colorado," Denver Mayor Michael Hancock said. "Overturning these convictions is part of Denver's multi-pronged approach to correct the social injustices caused by the war on drugs."

Colorado was among the first states to broadly allow the sale and adult use of marijuana, but cities elsewhere have led the way on automatic expungement of past convictions.

Seattle, San Francisco and some prosecutors in New York City last year rolled out

programs to toss hundreds of marijuana convictions, saying now-legal activity should no longer block people from getting jobs or finding housing.

States also have sought solutions to the problem. Washington state's governor announced this month that he would pardon thousands of people convicted of marijuana possession, and Michigan's governor has said she would consider a similar approach.

California has a new law requiring the state Department of Justice to provide lists of marijuana convictions eligible for erasure or reduction to local prosecutors. □

Teacher strike delayed in second-largest US school district

By CHRISTOPHER WEBER, Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The union representing teachers in Los Angeles — the nation's second-largest school district — postponed the start of a strike until Monday because of the possibility of a court-ordered delay of a walkout. United Teachers Los Angeles previously said its 35,000 members would walk off the job Thursday for the first time in 30 years if a deal wasn't reached on higher pay and smaller class sizes.

However, a judge was considering Wednesday whether the union gave legally proper notice of a strike and could have ordered teachers to wait. Union officials said they believe they would have prevailed in court but decided to postpone a strike to avoid confusion and give teachers, parents and others time to prepare.

The Los Angeles Unified School District, with 640,000 students, said the delay provides an opportunity to keep talking and avoid a strike.

Teachers are hoping to build on the "Red4Ed" movement that began last year in West Virginia, where



Manuela Panjoj, 42-year-old mother of five children, holds a sign during a news conference outside the Los Angeles Unified School District headquarters Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2019, in Los Angeles, Calif.

a strike resulted in a significant raise.

It moved to Oklahoma, Kentucky, Arizona, Colorado and Washington state, spreading from conservative states with "right to work" laws that limit the ability to strike to the more liberal West Coast with strong unions.

"What you're seeing with unions is real enthusiasm and a belief that you can actually be successful," said Robert Bruno, a professor of labor and employment relations at the University of Illinois. "The educational sector is rife with deep grievance and frustration, but there's now

a sense that you can actually win."

The walkouts in other states emboldened organized labor after a critical defeat at the U.S. Supreme Court, which ruled last year that government workers can't be required to join unions and pay dues.

"Each state is different, but the commonality across all states is teachers, and parents are sick of schools not being invested in," union President Alex Caputo-Pearl said.

The Los Angeles district has offered a 6 percent raise over the first two years of a three-year contract. The union wants a 6.5 percent

hike that would take effect all at once and be retroactive to fiscal 2017.

Health care fully paid by the district and a pension plan would be unchanged under both proposals.

The district has said the union's demands could bankrupt the school system, which is projecting a half-billion-dollar deficit this budget year and has billions obligated for pension payments and health coverage for retired teachers. Negotiations were continuing, but little progress was evident in the contract dispute.

Superintendent Austin Beutner traveled Wednesday to Sacramento to ask state lawmakers for additional resources for Los Angeles schools in hopes of averting a walkout.

Unlike other states, schools in California stay open if a strike happens.

The Los Angeles district has hired hundreds of substitutes to replace teachers and others who leave for picket lines.

The union said it's "irresponsible" to hire substitutes and called on parents to consider keeping students home or join marchers if a strike goes forward. □

Remains ID'd as girl in SUV that went over California cliff

By PAUL ELIAS, Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Human remains found on a Northern California beach belong to one of the six adopted children killed along with their parents when their mother intentionally drove their SUV off a cliff, authorities said Wednesday.

The Mendocino County sheriff's department had trouble identifying the human remains found shortly after the March 26 crash until the biological mother of Hannah Hart, 16, called the department from Mobile, Alabama, in October. She was responding to a request from investigators for family members to come forward and help with the identification process.

The woman's DNA sample



This March 28, 2018, aerial file photo taken from Alameda County Sheriff's Office drone video shows the pullout where the SUV of Jennifer and Sarah Hart was recovered off Pacific Coast Highway 1, near Westport, Calif.

matched the teen's remains, the sheriff's department said.

Only the remains of 15-year-old Devonte Hart have not been found. Nonetheless, the sheriff's depart-

ment says it believes all six children died in the crash.

Devonte, who was black, drew national attention after he was photographed in tears while hugging a white police officer at a 2014 protest. The sheriff's department said Jennifer Hart, 38, was drunk when she intentionally drove her vehicle off California's scenic Highway 1 and over a cliff into the ocean about 155 miles (250 kilometers) north of San Francisco. Investigators are still trying to determine a motive.

Toxicology results showed that Hart's wife Sarah Hart, 38, and several of the children ages 12 through 19 had large amounts of a drug that can cause drowsiness in their systems.

The crash happened just days after authorities in Washington state, where the family moved in 2017 from Oregon, opened an investigation following allegations the children were being neglected. □

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Au pairs win \$65.5 million deal in Denver suit

By COLLEEN SLEVIN, Associated Press

DENVER (AP)— Young people from around the world who provided low-cost child care for American families will share in a proposed \$65.5 million settlement of a lawsuit brought by a dozen former au pairs against the companies that bring the workers to the United States.

Nearly 100,000 au pairs, mostly women, who worked in American homes over the past decade will be entitled to payment under the proposed settlement filed in Denver federal court Wednesday, a month before the case brought by a dozen former au pairs from Colombia, Australia, Germany, South Africa and Mexico was set to go to trial.

They claimed 15 companies authorized to bring au pairs to the United States colluded to keep their wages low, ignoring overtime and state minimum wage laws and treating the federal minimum wage for au pairs as a maximum amount they can earn. In some cases, the lawsuit said, families pushed the limits of their duties, requiring au pairs to do things like feed backyard chickens, help families move and do gardening, and not allowing them to eat with the family.

"This settlement, the hard-fought victory of our clients who fought for years on behalf of about 100,000 fellow au pairs, will be perhaps the largest settlement ever on behalf of minimum wage workers and will finally give au pairs the opportunity to seek higher wages and better working conditions," said David Seligman, director of Denver-based Towards Justice, which filed the lawsuit in 2014. It was later litigated by New York-based firm Boies Schiller Flexner.

Under the settlement, which still must be approved by a judge, the companies agreed to make sure au pairs are informed about their legal rights in the future, but they denied any

wrongdoing.

Lawyers now need to track down au pairs who came to the U.S. on J-1 visas between Jan. 1, 2009, and

challenged by the lawsuit. The sponsors contended it's not a work program, noting au pairs have cultural exchange visas, not work

with" — developed in post-war Europe, where young people lived with families in other countries to learn a language in exchange for

university, which led her to extend her stay, and for not yelling or threatening to hit her as a previous host had done.

"I don't wish anyone to experience anything like this," Azuela, who is from Hermosillo, Mexico, but now lives in Wisconsin, said about why she joined in the lawsuit.

Meanwhile, a related case challenging whether Massachusetts had the right to protect au pairs in its domestic workers' bill of rights since they are regulated by the federal government is pending in federal appeals court. The State Department said in a court filing in September that federal law requires only that au pairs are paid the federal minimum wage, arguing federal law specifically states when other international guest workers, like camp counselors and teachers, are entitled to make more.

While the law does not specifically say au pairs should get more than the federal minimum wage, it does say they are to be paid according to the Fair Labor Standards Act as it's been interpreted by the U.S. Labor Department. The judge in the Denver case, Christine Arguello, ruled the federal law did not block au pairs from seeking back pay under higher state minimum wages.

Attorneys in the Denver case claimed the opponents of the Massachusetts law were attempting a "collateral attack" on the Denver lawsuit and urged the 1st Circuit Court of Appeals in October to uphold the Massachusetts law.

Speaking ahead of the settlement, Alieza Durana, a senior policy analyst at New America who co-wrote the child care report, said she did not think the Denver case would have a big impact on the child care landscape in the United States since a relatively small number of families rely on au pairs and because so much of the child care market is unregulated — both in terms of pay and quality. □



In this Thursday, Dec. 20, 2018, photo, attorneys, from left, David Seligman, Nina DiSalvo and Alexander Hood of Denver's Towards Justice are shown outside the organization's office east of downtown Denver.

Associated Press.

Oct. 28, 2018, and have set up a website to help spread the word about the deal.

While sometimes confused with nannies, au pairs have much less experience and earn a lot less.

The program, overseen by the U.S. State Department, was launched as a cultural exchange program in 1986 as demand for child care grew. At first there were only 3,000 participants as part of a pilot, but last year there were over 20,000. The program occupies a gray area between work and an international relations effort, and critics say that makes it ripe for abuse.

The sponsors said they were just following regulations from the State Department — which last adjusted au pair pay to \$195.75 for a 45-hour work week in 2009 after the federal minimum wage rose to \$7.25. Their hourly wage has actually been \$4.25 though: Families were told to deduct 40 percent of their pay to cover the room and board they're required to provide the au pairs, a practice

visas. They have touted au pairs as a cheaper, flexible option for child care since they are paid the same amount regardless of how many children they care for, unlike at child care centers where parents pay a fee for each child, sometimes after spending time on a wait list. In court filings, they argued requiring families to pay more in states with higher minimum wages would destroy the program by making au pairs unaffordable, hurting its foreign policy goals.

According to a 2016 report on U.S. child care by the Washington-based think tank New America, the average cost of full-time child care in a daycare center for children up to 4 years old is \$9,589 a year for each child, more than the average cost of in-state college tuition. The average cost of full-time care at home with a nanny was \$28,353 — 53 percent of the median U.S. household income and nearly three times the annual pay for an au pair. The practice of having au pairs — French for "on par

helping with childcare and some housework. In Europe, au pairs generally are limited to working 30 hours a week.

Sarah Azuela said the ad she saw her final year of college in Mexico promised coming to the United States to work as an au pair would be the best year of her life, full of travel, meeting new people and becoming part of an American family. But she says what grew into a two-year stay turned out to be the worst time of her life, with her feeling more like a slave subject to the whims of her host families than a member of the household. At her last placement — working for a single mother in Virginia — Azuela said that in addition to helping care for three children, she cooked all the meals, cleaned, planted flowers and packed the family's belongings and helped move them twice, first to an interim apartment and then to a permanent home.

Nevertheless, Azuela was grateful her host mother gave her time to study for a business certificate at a



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Seattle highway shutdown spawns hashtags, dread

By LISA BAUMANN, Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — A major thoroughfare for commuters along downtown Seattle's waterfront is set to shut down for good Friday, ushering in what officials say will be one of the most painful traffic periods in the history of the booming Pacific Northwest city.

The aging, double-decker, 2.2-mile (3.5-kilometer) Alaskan Way Viaduct, which carries about 90,000 vehicles each day, will be replaced by a four-lane tunnel. Officials say tearing down the viaduct, damaged in a 2001 earthquake, will allow Seattle to reimagine its waterfront with new parks, paths and other amenities.

But the new tunnel won't open until about three weeks after the viaduct closes as workers realign the highway into it. A mélange of other construction projects will further constrain traffic in the hilly city surrounded by water, already known for its population growth and traffic woes.

Washington's transportation agency on its website has a clock counting down to the viaduct closure, which it says will be the longest major highway closure the Puget Sound region has ever seen.

The period between the viaduct's closure, scheduled for 10 p.m. Friday, and the state Route 99 tunnel opening is already being dubbed the "Seattle Squeeze."

"It is dramatic," said



In this long-exposure photo taken Thursday, Jan. 3, 2019, headlights and taillights of Alaskan Way Viaduct traffic lines the highway ahead of an upcoming closure of the roadway, as the city's sports stadiums are seen in the distance, in Seattle.

Heather Marx, director of Downtown Mobility for the Seattle Department of Transportation. "Everyone traveling in the region will be impacted," she said, referring to people going to and through the Seattle metropolitan area.

City, King County and state officials have been doing outreach and working to ensure things run as smoothly as possible, like authorities did ahead of Los Angeles' "Carmageddon" freeway shutdown in 2011. Many feared that daylong bridge project on one of the region's most critical freeways would lead to epic traffic jams, but it cruised to a finish ahead of schedule with no significant problems.

During the "Seattle Squeeze," school bus drivers will start their days ear-

lier, and officials are advising commuters to work from home or adjust their work hours if they can. Those who can't are being asked to walk, bike, join a carpool or use transit including buses, light rail or water taxis — all to avoid driving solo into downtown during peak commute times.

Tad Donaghe, of West Seattle, usually travels by bus to his downtown job at Nordstrom but has worked out an alternate route involving light rail and water taxi to avoid the anticipated crush of drivers switching to buses during the closure.

"I tried out my #Viaduct commute tonight," he tweeted Monday, using a popular hashtag related to the closure.

Donaghe told The Associated Press that route was relatively "lovely." And al-

though the new commute will cost more and may take longer than the 80 minutes it lasted Monday, his employer pays for his transit so he doesn't mind.

"No matter what, it was infinitely nicer than if I had driven home," Donaghe said. "I quit driving for a commute because mass transit is infinitely less stressful."

The growth of tech giant Amazon and a population boom has spawned an abundance of construction in the Seattle area in recent years with new housing, light rail expansion and infrastructure development already straining commuters' patience. Once the tunnel opens, removing the viaduct will take months, which will be followed by the creation of the new downtown wa-

terfront area. Large private projects also in the city's core include the renovation of a sports arena that will host professional hockey and an addition to the Washington State Convention Center.

"We've added 85,000 new people to the county in just the last two years, so these are the kinds of public spaces and destinations and mobility we need to support our growing region," Meghan Shepard, with Seattle's Transportation Department, said in a city video posted on YouTube.

Seattle Mayor Jenny Durkan recently announced legislation that would complete funding of the new waterfront area, which includes 20 acres (8 hectares) of public spaces and an elevated pathway connecting the waterfront to the historic Pike Place Market and downtown.

"After the many years of tunnel construction, the viaduct will finally be coming down, and work on the waterfront of the future will begin," Durkan said in a statement.

The viaduct was built in 1953 and weakened in the earthquake. While it was repaired and strengthened, the aging roadway remained vulnerable to earthquakes. City and state officials and others battled for years over how best to replace it, with the tunnel plan, now estimated at \$3.3 billion, chosen by former Gov. Chris Gregoire and state lawmakers in 2009. □

Associated Press.

Malta take stranded migrants off boats in EU deal

By STEPHEN CALLEJA

FRANCES D'EMILIO

Associated Press

VALLETTA, Malta (AP) —

Racing an approaching storm, Maltese military vessels took to shore 49 migrants who were kept in limbo on private rescue ships until the island nation reached a deal Wednesday for the asylum-seekers to be distributed among eight other European Union members.

The deal ended an impasse that kept the migrants stuck on the rescue boats while European governments negotiated which countries would take them. A ship operated by German rescue group Sea-Watch picked up 32 people on Dec. 22. Another aid group, Sea-Eye, rescued 17 in waters off Libya on Dec. 29.

"After 19 days at sea, our guests finally have a safe haven," a tweet from Sea-Watch's account read. "It is a testament to state failure; politics should never



Migrants wave as they disembark at Hay Wharf, Pieta, Malta, Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2019.

Associated Press

be played at the cost of people in need."

When the deal was announced, the aid boats were about 5 nautical miles off the coast of Malta, which denied them permission to port but let the vessels shelter in its territorial

waters during the negotiations.

Under the deal announced by Prime Minister Joseph Muscat, the vessels won't be allowed into Maltese ports. Instead, the arrangement called for the 49 migrants to be taken aboard

by military vessels and then brought to the island nation.

Muscat said the ad hoc deal illustrated anew that the EU needs a comprehensive policy on migrants who are rescued while trying to reach Europe by

crossing the Mediterranean Sea.

"I think it is obvious that we need something more structured and long-term," he told reporters. "However, right now, I think it would be delusional to think that there is the political climate for this to happen."

The deal also meets Malta's demand for other countries to take many of the 249 migrants Maltese military vessels rescued in late December. The agreement calls for 131 to be relocated to other EU nations, 74 to remain in Malta and to have EU experts review the circumstances of 44 migrants from Bangladesh before their destinations are decided.

Germany agreed to take 60 migrants from Malta, some from the stranded rescue ships and some Maltese boats rescued in December. Italy was another of the eight countries that agreed to let in migrants from the Sea-Watch and Sea-Eye ships. □

Dutch, Japanese PMs offer to help save imperiled Brexit deal

By MIKE CORDER

Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands

(AP) — The prime ministers of Japan and the Netherlands said Wednesday they want Britain's withdrawal from the European Union to go as smoothly as possible and to prevent Brexit from happening without an agreement on future ties between the bloc and its former member.

Britain is due to leave the EU on March 29. Prime Minister Theresa May is fighting to persuade lawmakers to endorse her government's deal with the EU on divorce terms and post-Brexit trade relations.

So far, May appeared likely to lose in a House of Commons vote next week, even though business leaders fear a "no-deal" Brexit could have far-reaching economic and social effects.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said he and



Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, third from left seated at the table, and Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte, opposite, talk during a delegation meeting in Rotterdam, Netherlands, Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2019.

Associated Press

Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte agreed during bilateral trade talks in Rotterdam on Wednesday that "we were both in for the avoidance of no-deal Brexit and

confirmed the importance of a smooth process."

"We want to see the influence of Brexit to the global economy be minimized through ensuring transpar-

ency predictability and legal stability through a transition," said Abe, who plans to meet with May in Britain on Thursday.

Rutte said he was working

with counterparts in like-minded countries such as France and Germany "to help my British colleague to bring the vote next week to a successful outcome."

He did not elaborate on what leaders of remaining EU member nations were doing to win support for the current Brexit deal in the deeply divided House of Commons.

"The present deal on the table is, I think, the best deal," Rutte said.

Abe visited Rotterdam as part of Japan's preparations for hosting the leaders of the world's top 20 economies in Osaka in June.

Rutte hailed a trade deal the EU and Japan signed last year that eliminates about 99 percent of the tariffs on Japanese goods sold to the bloc. The agreement is expected to lift about 94 percent of the tariffs on European exports to Japan and rise to 99 percent in the future. □



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Israel says it can foil foreign election meddling amid scare

By ARON HELLER

Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel's internal security service said Wednesday it was prepared to thwart any foreign intervention in the upcoming elections, after its director warned such efforts were being made by a world power, with suspicions falling on Russia.

The unusual Shin Bet statement followed a TV report that Shin Bet chief Nadav Argaman recently told a closed audience that a foreign country was trying to intervene in the April elections via hackers and cyber technology.

"The Shin Bet would like to make clear that the state of Israel and the intelligence community have the tools and capabilities to identify, monitor and thwart foreign influence efforts, should there be any," it said. "The Israeli defense apparatus is able to guarantee democratic and free elections are held in Israel."

Argaman did not say for whose benefit the alleged meddling was being done. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has grown closer to Russian President Vladimir Putin in recent years. However, Netanyahu is far ahead in the polls at the moment, and does not appear to need any outside help.

Initial reports about Argaman's comments were placed under a military gag order that was later lifted, though the naming of the country in question is still prohibited.

Even so, fingers were quickly pointed toward Russia, which is accused of trying to influence the 2016 American election in favor of Donald Trump, the Brexit campaign in the United Kingdom and other recent

European elections.

"We demand that the security forces make sure Putin doesn't steal the

databases, spreading disinformation through social media and leaking personal and embarrassing mate-

and tech workers. The latest Israeli warning came just days after Twitter suspended an account



In this Wednesday, March 18, 2015 file photo, an election campaign poster with the image of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu lies among ballot papers at his party's election headquarters, in Tel Aviv.

election for his friend, the dictator Bibi," said Tamar Zandberg, head of the dovish Meretz party, referring to Netanyahu by his nickname.

Russia denied the accusations. "Russia has not interfered and has no intentions to interfere in any elections in any country in the world," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters Wednesday.

Without addressing the report directly, Netanyahu said he was not concerned. "Israel is ready to thwart any cyber intervention. We are ready for any scenario. There is no country better prepared," he said.

Israel is a cyber superpower with a governmental cyber defense body. It still uses paper ballots on election day rather than digital systems, but it could still be vulnerable to other types of pre-election intervention, like hacking into party

trial on the candidates, said Tehilla Shwartz Altshuler, an expert on technology policy at the non-partisan Israel Democracy Institute. "Russia is trying throughout all the Western countries to undermine the public's trust in liberal democracy," she said. "There is no doubt they will try to do here what they have done in other countries."

Some Israelis have been previously targeted by the Russian hacking group known as Fancy Bear, according to an Associated Press analysis of data supplied by cybersecurity company Secureworks.

The AP uncovered at least 20 Israel-based targets of the group, which Western governments have alleged is an extension of Russia's military intelligence arm, often called the GRU. The Israelis, who were targeted between 2015 and 2016, include defense academics

that posted links to sensitive personal data and documents stolen by a hacker from hundreds of German public figures and politicians — from every political party but the far-right Alternative for Germany. Election interference has been high on the interna-

Associated Press

tional agenda ever since America's 2016 presidential election, in which Russian hackers stole and published more than 150,000 emails from various Democratic targets in what U.S. spymasters and senior lawmakers have described as a wide-ranging effort to help elect Trump. But evidence for a continued Russian interference campaign has been ambiguous at best.

Digital security companies found some evidence that Russian spies were targeting lawmakers ahead of the country's midterm elections last year, but experts said that is business-as-usual in the espionage world and there was no repeat of the spectacular leaks that preceded Trump's victory.

French authorities have said they have no evidence that a mysterious leak of emails just ahead of President Emmanuel Macron's election in 2017 was linked to Moscow. German authorities have said the recent email dump that affected hundreds of public figures there has been claimed by a live-at-home 20-year-old who says he acted alone. □

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Italy's Salvini seeks to build new European order with Poles

By VANESSA GERA

Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Italy's hard-line interior minister vowed Wednesday to work with Poland to create a "new European spring" as he sought to build an alliance with Poland's ruling populists ahead of the European Parliament elections in May.

After a meeting with Poland's powerful ruling party leader, Jaroslaw Kaczynski, Italian Interior Minister Matteo Salvini expressed satisfaction and said they agreed "90 percent" about what should be done to reform the European Union. Salvini said he wants to reduce the grip of Socialists and other left-wing leaders at the EU, saying "they have already caused enough damage." He described the EU that he wants to see as one rooted in the continent's Christian heritage with strong borders that keep out migrants.

His aim, Salvini said, is to build "a common alliance of who wants to save Europe."

"This is a historic chance," he told reporters at a news conference at the Italian Embassy in Warsaw.

The European Parliament



Italian Interior Minister Matteo Salvini, left, and his Polish counterpart Joachim Brudzinski, right, address the media following their talks in Warsaw, Poland, Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2019.

Associated Press

elections, being held across the EU from May 23-26, are shaping up into a battle between liberal pro-EU forces backed by leaders like French President Emmanuel Macron, and populist euroskeptics represented by Salvini and far-right leaders including France's Marine Le Pen. Kaczynski did not comment after the meeting. Howev-

er, his party's spokeswoman Beata Mazurek posted a photo of the two men with their delegations and said the talks were "positive" and "full of common understanding." However, she also said some issues were raised in which the two sides differ.

Salvini's League, one of two parties in Italy's ruling coalition, and Kaczynski's

governing Law and Justice party in Poland are both staunchly anti-migrant and often criticize how the EU functions now.

However, Polish skepticism about Salvini's friendly approach to Russian President Vladimir Putin could be an impediment to their collaboration. So could Salvini's friendliness with Le Pen, who is also viewed as

beholden to Moscow, due to loans her party took from a Russian bank.

Earlier in the day Salvini also met with his Polish counterpart Joachim Brudzinski, arriving at the Interior Ministry in Warsaw wearing a jacket with the word "Polizia" (police) on the back.

"In Europe, one has always spoken about a French-German axis," Salvini said in a news conference there. "We are preparing for a new equilibrium and a new energy in Europe. And Poland and Italy will be the protagonists of this new European spring, of this rebirth of true European values."

Salvini also slammed a new EU-brokered deal to distribute rescued migrants among several EU countries. He said the deal would only encourage human traffickers to launch more unseaworthy boats across the Mediterranean, reiterating his longstanding opposition to accepting any more new arrivals.

Brudzinski said he rejected accusations that the Polish and Italian governments were seeking to leave the EU, saying their aim is "to have influence on what our common, European home is going to look like." □

Debate over renaming nation enters final days in Macedonia

By KONSTANTIN TESTORIDES

Associated Press

SKOPJE, Macedonia (AP) — Macedonian lawmakers entered the final stretch Wednesday of renaming their country North Macedonia, part of a deal with neighboring Greece that would smooth the small Balkan country's path to NATO membership in return.

The agreement, reached in June after almost three decades of acrimony, has caused political turmoil in Macedonia and Greece. Opponents in both countries say it includes too many concessions to the other side. Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras said he would seek its ratification in parliament this month despite strong



Opponents to the change of the country's constitutional name protest outside the parliament building prior to a session of the Macedonian Parliament in the capital Skopje, Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2019.

Associated Press

opposition within his governing coalition.

Tsipras said in a TV interview Wednesday that if his junior coalition partner withdraws its support over the Mace-

donia deal, he would seek a government confidence vote before the agreement comes to parliament.

The deal is intended to end a long dispute over the

Macedonia name, one bitter enough for Greece to block the former Yugoslav republic from joining international organizations such as NATO and the European Union.

Greece bitterly fought its young neighbor's use of the name when it gained independence, saying it implied territorial claims on its own Macedonia province and on ancient Greek heritage. In Macedonia's capital Wednesday, Prime Minister Zoran Zaev told lawmakers debating the constitutional changes needed to rename the country that the agreement his government signed recognizes Macedonian national identity and language.

"This is an historic and patri-

otic choice. We can be the generation that has made a bold decision," Zaev said. The debate was adjourned until Thursday and is expected to last until Friday.

Macedonia's center-right VMRO-DPMNE opposition party boycotted the debate. Leader Hristijan Mickoski and other party lawmakers joined several hundred protesters outside who called the deal "treason." The constitutional amendments are expected to pass nonetheless. Aleksandar Kirakovski, secretary general of the coalition government's Social Democrats, said the government had secured enough votes to reach the two-thirds support required for passage. □

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China allowing 2,000 ethnic Kazakhs to leave Xinjiang region

By DAKE KANG
Associated Press

ALMATY, Kazakhstan (AP)

— China is allowing more than 2,000 ethnic Kazakhs to abandon their Chinese citizenship and leave the country, the Kazakh Foreign Ministry said, in a sign that Beijing may be starting to feel a mounting backlash against its sweeping crackdown on Muslims in the far west region of Xinjiang. The detention of Uighur, Kazakh and other ethnic minorities in internment camps has been a touchy issue in neighboring Kazakhstan, a Central Asian country of 18 million people. China is a major trading partner, and Kazakhstan's state-restricted media had generally avoided reporting on it. But activists say pressure for action has slowly built, following an Associated Press story on the camps in May and other international media coverage.



In this Dec. 8, 2018, photo, Adilgazy Yergazy, a farmer, holds up pictures of his detained younger brothers at his home in a village near Almaty, Kazakhstan.

Associated Press

The Foreign Ministry press office, in an email response, confirmed Kazakh media reports in December that China has agreed

to let 2,000-plus ethnic Kazakhs leave. It did not say who could leave or why. They will be allowed to apply for Kazakh citizenship or

permanent residency after their arrival in Kazakhstan, the email said.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry did not respond to a

request for comment. Chinese authorities in Xinjiang have launched a massive surveillance and detention campaign that has swept hundreds of thousands and possibly more than a million people into internment camps. Former detainees have said they were forced to renounce their culture and faith and subjected to political indoctrination.

The detentions have sent a chill over a tight-knit community of Chinese-born Kazakhs living in Kazakhstan. Many had left China to pursue business opportunities in trade or educate their children in Kazakh schools as restrictions tightened in Xinjiang.

Hundreds lost contact with relatives in Xinjiang, and many began writing letters and attending press conferences, hoping that greater publicity would help bring their loved ones home. □

S. Korea freezes Japan company assets over forced labor spat



In this Nov. 29, 2018, file photo, victims of Japan's forced labor and their family members arrive at the Supreme Court in Seoul, South Korea.

Associated Press

By KIM HYUNG-JIN
Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)
— A South Korean district

court said Wednesday it has decided to freeze the local assets of a Japanese company involved in compensation disputes for wartime Korean laborers.

Last October, South Korea's top court ordered Nippon Steel & Sumitomo Metal Corp. to pay 100 million won (\$88,000) each to four plaintiffs forced to work for the company when Japan colonized the Korean Peninsula from 1910-45. The Daegu District Court's branch office in the southeastern city of Pohang said Wednesday it had approved a request

by lawyers for the plaintiffs to seize Korean assets held by the Japanese company as it was refusing to compensate the former laborers.

Japan maintains all colonial-era compensation issues were settled by a 1965 treaty between the governments.

In Tokyo, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told reporters that relevant ministers will meet later Wednesday to discuss how to respond to the issue, Kyodo News service said. The Japanese company holds 2.34 million

shares, or around \$9.7 million, in its joint venture in Pohang with South Korean steelmaker POSCO.

South Korea's Yonhap news agency, citing an unidentified official at the Pohang office, reported the district court decided to freeze 81,075 of the 2.34 million shares, not the whole shares. Yonhap said the asset freeze will become effective after a related court document is delivered to the joint venture.

The district court said it couldn't immediately confirm the Yonhap report. □

Colombia's peace court weighs truth, justice and mistrust

By CHRISTINE ARMARIO

Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) —

Armando Acuna arrived at Colombia's nascent peace tribunal to tell the story of his kidnapping, carrying the chain rebels used to hold him captive for nearly two years.

Former congresswoman Clara Rojas brought her written memoirs containing a tale of survival and childbirth in the jungle that, she admitted to judges, she hesitated to tell again, fearful of reopening old wounds.

Olga Esperanza Rojas brought an agonizing plea: An appeal to find her soldier husband who disappeared on his way to work at a military barracks over two decades ago.

"Jose!" she cried aloud at a recent hearing. "Where are you Jose?!"

One by one, many of the victims of Latin America's longest-running armed conflict are providing brutal testimony to a new Special Peace Jurisdiction that is one of the most controversial aspects of the 2016 peace accord between Colombia's government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia. The court has opened a half-dozen cases against hundreds of leftist guerrilla and military officers in its first year of operation, and its president, Patricia Linares, said the first verdicts should come this year.

The tribunal's success may depend on whether it survives attempts by opponents of the peace process to undo the terms of the original agreement and on its ability to quickly deliver decisions that resonate with the public in Colombia, where the peace accord is still divisive, impunity is the norm and violence in the countryside by other armed groups is again raging.

Perhaps a deeper question is whether any court can deliver a semblance of justice after a half-century conflict whose full scope may be impossible to account for.

"I feel rage toward the guerrillas but I also feel rage toward the state," said Acuna, a former small-

overwhelmingly despise the rebels. Those who reject the findings against them can receive up to 20

she's hoping that rebels will reveal the full truth, whatever it may be.

"They signed an agree-



Human rights activists arrive to deliver a report about violent acts during the conflict in the Urabá region, at the Special Peace Tribunal headquarters in Bogota, Colombia, Monday, Dec. 10, 2018.

Associated Press

town councilman targeted for his political activity in a rebel-dominated part of southern Colombia, as he testified. "They left great scars. Can money repair that?"

The over-300-page peace accord calls for a three-pronged system to document the conflict and deliver largely symbolic sanctions aimed at making reparations to victims.

An independent truth commission will explore why the conflict happened, what atrocities were committed and how future bloodshed can be avoided. A unit for the disappeared will gather information on nearly 83,000 missing people. And the Special Peace Tribunal will investigate, judge and hand out sentences for the most serious war crimes like kidnapping, civilian massacres and forced recruitment of minors.

Defendants who fully confess their crimes are likely to escape without any punishment beyond apologizing and making reparations to victims — an alternative sentence common in peace processes but nonetheless difficult to stomach for many Colombians, who

years in jail.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Linares said that focusing less on punitive sanctions and more on finding the truth is the best solution for a country where the existing criminal justice system has failed to deliver any sort of conviction in the vast majority of war crimes.

"The regular justice system hasn't shown results," she said. "What we're trying to do is get to the truth, to know what happened, why it happened."

That is an approach Olga Esperanza Rojas said she is willing to put faith in after waiting almost all of her adult life for answers about her husband's disappearance.

From what little she has gleaned from witnesses and rebels, she knows the 23-year-old soldier and father of two was detained by guerrillas on his way to work. But from there the trail goes cold. She's spent years sharing her story in newspapers and on television, knocking on doors of public agencies, getting no answers.

Now the leader of a victim rights organization, she said

ment," she said. "And as men who took up arms to kill, they should also be able to confront the truth."

Critics are less optimistic guerrillas will admit to atrocities committed during the war between leftist rebels, the state and right-wing paramilitary groups, and say the judicial proceedings are structured to hide a full public reckoning of their crimes. Unlike in a typical trial, former guerrilla leaders will be questioned behind closed doors, with their testimony made public only if it coincides with what prosecutors, victims and investigators find.

On a recent radio talk show, one former rebel leader denied the guerrillas forcibly recruited members, further fanning doubts over their commitment to honesty.

"If this is the truth they intend to tell the JEP, they should end up with long jail sentences," Jose Miguel Vivanco, Americas director for Human Rights Watch, wrote on Twitter, referring to the peace tribunal by its Spanish acronym.

The party of former President Alvaro Uribe, the peace deal's chief critic,

has vowed to push for reforms like creating a separate branch to try military officers, a move observers warn could sow further mistrust among rebels because they fear it would be more lenient on soldiers than on rebels?

"If they do push that ahead that's potentially a real problem," said David Cortright, director of the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame, which is charged with monitoring implementation of the accord.

Colombia's new President Ivan Duque campaigned on promises to roll back parts of the accord, and Cortright said he has seen "not a reversal but kind of a slowdown" in implementing some areas. The Duque administration has warned it doesn't have enough money to fully implement the accord.

Acuna was a councilman in the city of Garzón in southern Colombia when guerrillas dressed as military officers stormed the government building where he was working and kidnapped him nearly a decade ago. His voice sometimes shaking and his face grimacing in pain, he recalled how he was kept chained like a dog, fed a diet largely of rice and pasta and rarely spoken to.

During his testimony, he picked up the simple chain not much larger than a bicycle lock used to keep him captive and showed magistrates how it was wrapped around his neck. "When someone puts you in chains," he said, an untouched glass of water sitting on the table in front of him, "your soul hurts."

But as much anger as he harbors toward his captors, he said he also blames the state for doing little if anything to support his family after his disappearance and then failing to make any inroads in prosecuting the case years after.

He said his testimony marked the first time he was able to share much of his story. □

LOCAL



Today Is Going To Be A Good Day



Here's why: Aruba Today collected some things to do BEYOND the beach. Yes, we know. Aruba, located 15 miles north of Venezuela in the warm waters of the southern Caribbean, is home to beautiful white-sand beaches, 82-degree days, and thus ideal for the perfect beach day. But we are also blessed with some of the warmest people in the world and our island is 19.6 miles long and 6 miles across, with a total area of 70 square miles. Bit more to discover than the white stretch on the coastline we say. Let's mention some of these hidden gems.

Nature Calls

The Arikok National park is worth the ride. We love the hikes that are guided by the park's rangers whose job is to maintain trails and protect natural resources. The flora and fauna are beautiful and the historical sites tell you about the island's indigenous roots. The guided tours are even free of charge. If you are not up to walking, you can drive through the park, one way or another this park is a great place to spend an entire day. Cruising through the landscape you end up at some of the most stunning beaches like Dos Playa or Daimara



Beach. In Total the park consists of 7907 acres protected nature with a richness of animals living in it. The Aruban whiptail lizard (cododo), Aruban cat eye snake (santano) and endangered rattle snake (cascabel) are just some of them, you can also admire these close in the park's Visitors' Center. For more information, visit the website www.arubanationalpark.org

Philip's Animal Garden

To stay with the animals, let's hop to an amazing place. Something different to do, an experience that is to be enjoyed by people of all ages. Welcome to Philip's Animal Garden. We are not talking about a zoo here, this is actually a sanctuary for all types of creatures, from horses to peacocks, kangaroos to turtles, monkeys, goats, and many, many more different species.

Continued on Page 14

Today Is Going To Be A Good Day

Continued from Page 13

The place was founded in 2009 and it is the only organization rescuing and rehabilitating exotic animals in Aruba, which has resulted in an amazing collection of these animals. They provide a suitable living environment for all the rescued animals. Up until now the owner, Philip, has built this shelter with his own efforts; building all the cages from scratch, designing all structures and welding them with his own bare hands. His goal is to upgrade the facilities to a world-class animal shelter with veterinary care and round-the-clock staffs. With the input from the Aruban community and visitors they provide the best care for these animals. Please check out their website for more information: www.philipsanimalgarden.com.

The Lighthouse

No, you would not think of this as a hidden gem. The California Lighthouse is actually one of the most known highlights in Aruba and many repeated guests most probably took the ride uphill already. But, there is a significant change to this tower. Since September 2016 you can climb the top. In 2015 Stichting Monumentenfonds started the restoration of the California Lighthouse. The project finished in September 2016 and the Lighthouse is now open for visitors to



enjoy the beautiful view from the top. The construction of the California Lighthouse started in 1915. The name 'California' came from a vessel of the West India Company and Pacific Steamship Co. called 'California' that shipwrecked in the area in 1891. Therefore they came up with the idea of building a lighthouse that could indicate the island's eastern tip to ships with its light. www.arubalighthouse.com will give you more information.

Kayak in the Mangroves

Mangel Halto at Savaneta is definitely a place

not to miss out on. The beautiful beach with the natural mangroves is simply a beauty, but if you are into a more active way to enjoy the nature: take a kayak. While you are doing some work-out -as it might get a little windy and rough-, you will see the island from a different perspective.

You can even make a stop to do some snorkeling at the reef. It's fun, it's healthy and for sure something else. There are several companies that offer kayak tours, we had good experience with The Shack Kayak Tours Aruba, find them on Facebook. □

Honoring loyal visitors at the Divi All Inclusive Resorts

ORANJESTAD — Recently, Kimberley Richardson of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Distinguished Visitor and Goodwill Ambassador. The Distinguished visitor certificate is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba 10 years and more consecutively. The Goodwill Ambassador certificate is presented to guests who visit Aruba 20 years and more consecutively.

The honorees are the lovely couple Marcos and Dee Dee Lopez, together with their three kids Ian, Elianna, and Savannah Lopez from Massachusetts.

This family stated that they love the island very much, especially for the year-round sunny weather, nice sandy beaches, delicious variety of foods, and Aruba's warm and friendly people.

Ms. Richardson together with the representatives of the Divi All Inclusive Resort presented the certificate to the honorees, and also handed over some presents and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home away from home. □



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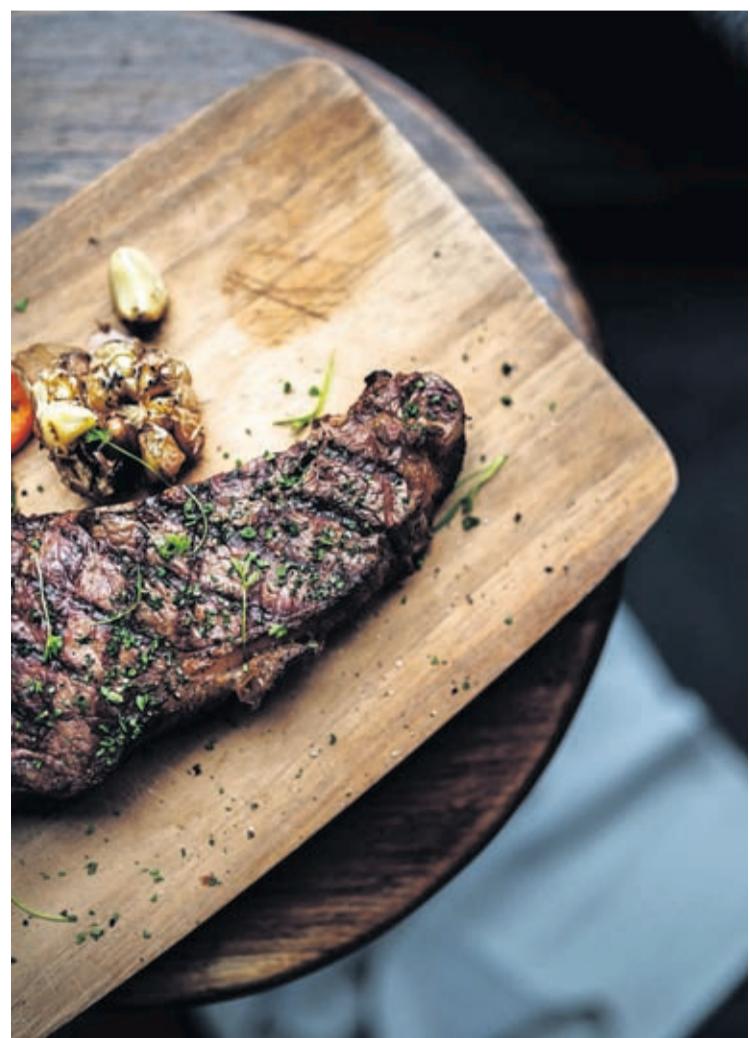
Today, once again, 20% off on all meat at Ling & Sons



ORANJESTAD — Ling & Sons IGA Supercenter, the biggest supermarket in Aruba is repeating its successful offer: "Red Thursday" where you receive 20% off all fresh meat. The 20% discount is valid on all fresh meat available at the meat department which includes: all beef, chicken, pork & turkey cuts.

With this great offer you are not only getting the best quality meat on the island, but also the best price which Ling & Sons is sure will make many families in Aruba very happy. Everyone is invited to stop by and enjoy the "red Thursday" offer. Aside from the "Red Thursday" offer, Ling & Sons

also has its weekly specials published every Friday and every Tuesday customer receive 20% off all fruit & veggies in store. Offer after offer at your #1 supermarket. Don't want to miss out on any offers? Make sure to follow Ling & Sons on Facebook and Instagram or visit www.lingandsons.com. □



Newly Upgraded RADEX BCMS Goes Live at Aruba Airport

ORANJESTAD — For ten years, Migracion Aruba has been using the RADEX Border Control Management System (BCMS) at the Aruba Airport to ensure safe and effective border control. Two years ago, the developer of RADEX, Gamma IT Solutions, was asked by Aruba's Minister of Justice to upgrade and modernize the system. Gamma is proud to announce that the upgraded version, which is virtually an entirely new application with many new modules and interfaces, and all new hardware, servers, and specialized equipment went live at the Aruba Airport during the week of November 19, 2018.

RADEX is a complete BCMS with the latest hard- and software for multi-biometric capture and search capabilities.

The key features of RADEX include first-stage processing, which involves checks against stolen passport databases, multiple wanted



lists, and any other database a country desires; second-stage processing, which includes multi-biometric search and enrollment; reporting; security; and administration.

With the recent RADEX upgrade, Gamma is proud to have adopted the latest fingerprint and facial scan techniques for multi-biometric search and enrollment.

The RADEX upgrade has also re-

sulted in a major improvement in traveler processing time. While the upgraded version of RADEX indeed promises greater border control for Aruba, the system proves incredibly valuable from a tourism standpoint as well. RADEX features an extensive array of interfaces and modules that can link important information between border control entities and tourism authorities. This sharing of informa-

tion greatly benefits the tourism sector. One of the modules—the Online ED card—is especially exciting, as it enables the Aruba Tourism Authority (ATA) to premarket to tourists, avoids input errors, and results in shorter processing time at the airport. Other modules include a Tourism Module, Fixed Base Operator Module, Portable Units Module, Coast Guard Module, and ESTA Module.

Frank Baks, director of business development at Gamma, shares some words on the launch of the RADEX upgrade: "Our team is incredibly proud to have delivered such a complex and large project. All the parties involved are very satisfied that the project was launched so successfully, and we look forward to continuing our work with Migracion Aruba, the Ministries of Justice and Tourism, and the ATA to ensure safe borders and help streamline Aruba's tourism-related processes." □

Riu Palace Antillas and Riu Palace Aruba said 2018 goodbye with pagara of 6 million shot

ORANJESTAD — Riu Palace Antillas and Riu Palace Aruba said goodbye to the last day of 2018 beside its guests and employees with the traditional "pagara". Many people from the Aruban community came together to dismiss the year and to enjoy the "pagara" of 6 million shot of Riu Palace Antillas and Riu Palace Aruba.

Employees of the RIU hotels in Aruba put the "pagara" starting from Riu Palace Antillas till Riu Palace Aruba and the General Manager was who fired up the "pagara". Everyone present was happy to come in union to

enjoy together the last day of 2018 and to remember how the year went. After the "pagara" the family of Riu Palace Antillas and Riu Palace Aruba wished a happy and prosperous new year to each guest and to Aruba's community and wished that everyone's dream come true.

About RIU:

The international RIU chain was founded in Mallorca by the Riu family in 1953 as a small holiday firm and is still owned by the family's third generation. The company specializes in holiday resorts and over 70% of its establishments offer its ac-



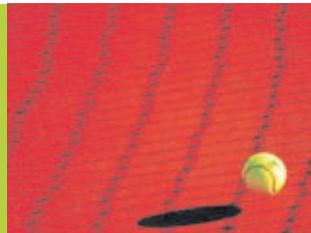
claimed All Inclusive by RIU service. With the inauguration of its first city hotel in 2010, RIU is expanding its range of products with its own line of city hotels

called Riu Plaza. RIU Hotels & Resorts now has 92 hotels in 19 countries which welcome over 4 million guests a year and provide jobs for a total of 28,894 employees.

RIU is currently the world's 34th ranked chain, one of the Caribbean's most popular, the third largest in Spain in terms of revenue and the fourth largest in number of rooms. □



SPORTS



Golden State Warriors' Quinn Cook, left, and Draymond Green, right, defend against New York Knicks' Emmanuel Mudiay (23) during the first half of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, Jan. 8, 2019, in Oakland, Calif.

Associated Press

Thompson scores 43, Warriors beat Knicks to snap home skid

By JANIE McCUALEY
AP Sports Writer

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Steve Kerr reminded his Warriors that with everything they have gone through already, Golden State reached the season's halfway point with 27 wins — so right on pace for 54. Klay Thompson is aiming higher. "Who cares? We know how to play good basketball," said Kevin Durant, who is most concerned with how prepared the Warriors are for playoff time.

Thompson scored 43 points with seven 3-pointers, Stephen Curry had his first double-double of the season with 14 points and a season-best 14 assists, and the Golden State Warriors snapped a rare three-game home losing streak by beating the cold-shooting New York Knicks 122-95 on Tuesday night.

Continued on Page 19

Thunder & Lightning



Vasilevskiy, Point help Lightning beat Blue Jackets 4-0

Tampa Bay Lightning goaltender Andrei Vasilevskiy (88) makes a blocker save on a shot by the Columbus Blue Jackets during the first period of an NHL hockey game Tuesday, Jan. 8, 2019, in Tampa, Fla.

Associated Press
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NHL Capsules



Tampa Bay Lightning goaltender Andrei Vasilevskiy (88) celebrates with teammates after a 4-0 win over the Columbus Blue Jackets during an NHL hockey game Tuesday, Jan. 8, 2019, in Tampa, Fla.

By The Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Andrei Vasilevskiy made 31 saves, Brayden Point had two goals and an assist, and the NHL-leading Tampa Bay Lightning beat the Columbus Blue Jackets 4-0 on Tuesday night.

NHL points leader Nikita Kucherov had a goal and an assist for the Lightning, and Mathieu Joseph also scored.

Tampa Bay (33-8-2, 68 points) is two points off the pace of the 1976-77 Montreal Canadiens, who set the NHL record for points in a season with 132. The Lightning had a 16-game point streak (15-0-1) end in a 5-2 loss at San Jose on Saturday.

Sergei Bobrovsky was pulled in the third after allowing four goals on 19 shots for the Blue Jackets, who are 8-3-1 over the last 12 games. Both left wing Markus Hannikainen (upper body) and center Brandon Dubinsky (lower body) left with injuries.

Vasilevskiy turned aside 17 shots, including three good scoring chances by Artemi Panarin, during the second en route to his second shutout this season and 14th overall. The Vezina Tro-

phy finalist last season was named before the game to replace Montreal's Carey Price in the All-Star Game.

CAPITALS 5, FLYERS 3

WASHINGTON (AP) — Jakub Vrana scored twice to set a career high in goals and added an assist to help Washington hand Philadelphia its eighth consecutive loss.

Vrana showed off his speed on his first goal and ended the defending Stanley Cup champions' 0-for-12 power-play drought with his second. He reached a career-best 14 goals in Washington's 42nd game.

The 22-year-old winger assisted on Tom Wilson's goal early in the first period as the Capitals scored on their first shot against journeyman goaltender Mike McKenna. When McKenna got the start, the Flyers tied an NHL record by using their seventh goalie of the season, a feat accomplished just three previous times.

McKenna allowed four goals on 25 shots, becoming the seventh Philadelphia goalie to register a loss through 43 games. The Flyers have lost 13 of their past 16 and are second-last in the NHL with 36 points.

T.J. Oshie also scored twice

— including an empty-netter with 2.1 seconds left — for the Capitals, who won their second in a row to bounce back from a three-game skid. Backup goaltender Pheonix Copley made a season-high 37 saves to pick up his 10th victory of the season.

JETS 7, AVALANCHE 4

WINNIPEG, Manitoba (AP) — Blake Wheeler had a goal and three assists, Mark Scheifele got his 23rd goal and Winnipeg beat Colorado.

Mathieu Perreault, Kyle Connor, Bryan Little, Andrew Copp and Jacob Trouba also scored for Winnipeg. Trouba, Scheifele and Tyler Myers each had two assists.

Gabriel Landeskog scored twice and tied a career high with his 27th goal for Colorado.

Carl Soderberg had a goal and an assist, and Ryan Graves also scored. Connor Hellebuyck made 37 saves for the Jets. Philipp Grubauer stopped 14 shots for Colorado.

HURRICANES 4, ISLANDERS 3

UNIONDALE, N.Y. (AP) — Justin Williams scored late in the third period and Carolina snapped New York's six-game winning streak.

Williams scored his 10th goal of the season 15 seconds after leaving the penalty box to make it 3-2 with 17:18 left. The 37-year-old flipped a backhand past goaltender Thomas Greiss with an assist from Greg McKegg. It was his 299th career goal.

Jacob Slavin made it 4-2 with a power-play goal at 18:53 before Brock Nelson scored his second of the game for the Islanders at 19:01.

The Hurricanes held on to win their fifth straight. Curtis McElhinney made 28 saves for Carolina, which also got goals from Saku Maenalanen and McKegg.

PENGUINS 5, PANTHERS 1

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Matt Murray stopped 36 shots to remain unbeaten since his return from a lower-body injury, Riley Sheahan and Bryan Rust scored short-handed goals in the second period and Pittsburgh stopped Florida. Murray improved to 8-0 with a 1.24 goals-against average and a .966 save percentage in his last eight starts for Pittsburgh, which has won nine of 10. Rust finished with two goals to push his season total to 11. Tanner Pearson picked up his sixth and Sid-

ney Crosby added his 20th for the Penguins, who beat the Panthers at home for the seventh straight time.

Aaron Ekblad collected his ninth of the season for Florida and the 62nd of his career to set a new franchise record for goals by a defenseman. Roberto Luongo finished with 12 saves on 16 shots before being pulled after Sheahan's unassisted score 8:56 into the second period.

BRUINS 4, WILD 0

BOSTON (AP) — Patrice Bergeron and Brad Marchand each had a goal and two assists, Tuukka Rask stopped 24 shots for his first shutout this season and Boston beat Minnesota. Danton Heinen and Jake DeBrusk also scored as Boston won its season-high fifth straight game. John Moore and Torey Krug had two assists apiece. Alex Stalock finished with 23 saves for Minnesota.

STARS 3, BLUES 1

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Tyler Seguin scored twice, Ben Bishop made several key saves and Dallas beat St. Louis. John Klingberg had a goal for the Stars, who won despite generating only 17 shots on net. Bishop, a St. Louis native, stopped 26 shots against his former team and improved to 5-5-1 versus the Blues.

David Perron scored for the Blues, who lost for the first time in eight games against the Stars at the Enterprise Center. St. Louis is 11-5-1 in its last 17 games against Dallas.

CANADIENS 3, RED WINGS 2

DETROIT (AP) — Brendan Gallagher and Joel Armia scored 66 seconds apart early in the second period, and Montreal edged Detroit. Andreas Athanasiou scored twice for the Red Wings, but Jeff Petry added a goal 19 seconds into the third for Montreal. Detroit wrapped up a five-game homestand that included only one victory. The Red Wings are 1-6-2 in their last nine games.

Antti Niemi had 30 saves for Montreal. Jimmy Howard stopped 22 shots for Detroit. □

Associated Press

Golden State Warriors vs. New York Knicks

Continued from Page 17

Cousins said after the game he is targeting a game Jan. 18 at the Clippers for his return from left Achilles tendon surgery, his long-anticipated Warriors debut.

"We obviously want him coming back into a good vibe. That would be nice," Curry said, "and us feeling good about ourselves with a guy like DeMarcus Cousins back in the lineup, so that'll be fun."

Durant added 24 points, six rebounds and six assists while Draymond Green had 11 rebounds and 10 of his team's 36 assists as the Warriors pulled away late in the first half to get back on a winning track at Oracle Arena.

Thompson hit 5 of his first 7 shots and had 12 points by the end of the first, finishing 18 of 29 from the floor — 7 for 16 from long range — and notching his second game with at least 40 points after going off for 52 at Chicago on Oct. 29.

Mario Hezonja scored 19 points for the Knicks, who shot 39.8 percent (35 of 88). Enes Kanter added 12 points and 16 rebounds.

"We grew some thick skin over this," New York coach David Fizdale said. "We took some lumps from some good teams."

The Warriors ended the first half on a 13-0 run over the final 2:47 of the first half to turn a 49-48 deficit into a 61-49 lead at the break.

The skid at home matched the longest at Oracle Arena during Kerr's five seasons as coach.

Curry chuckled recalling Thompson walking off the court offering, "When's the last time we blew somebody out, 2016?"

Golden State won its 10th straight against New York and fifth in a row at home, and this marked the Knicks' final visit to Oracle Arena before the two-time defending champion Warriors move across the bay to new arena Chase Center starting next season.

Curry began 3 for 10 and finished just 5 of 19, 3 for 12 from deep, while Durant



New York Knicks' Emmanuel Mudiay, left, and Golden State Warriors' Klay Thompson chase a loose ball during the first half of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, Jan. 8, 2019, in Oakland, Calif.

Associated Press

started 3 of 9 and missed his initial five 3-point tries.

Curry hit 10 3-pointers on the way to 42 points in Saturday's 127-123 win at Sacramento, moving him into fourth place on the all-time 3-point list. He had three more Tuesday to reach 2,280, two shy of matching Jason Terry (2,282) for third all-time.

COUSINS' PROGRESS

All-Star center Cousins' progress has been encouraging in recent scrimmages enough that Kerr expects him back soon — perhaps even sooner than Jan. 18.

Cousins, who could give the Warriors five All-Star starters, has made strides in recent weeks with his conditioning. Before the game, Kerr said the Warriors were planning for Cousins.

"We have a decent idea how we'd like to use DeMarcus and in what rotations," he said. "It might not be as simple as 'This looks good on paper.'"

TIP-INS

Knicks: New York shot 6 of 24 on 3s and was out-rebounded 49-39. ... The Knicks haven't beaten the Warriors since an 89-84 victory on March 30, 2014, also the last time New York won at Oracle Arena. New York lost 15 of its last 17 overall in Oakland. ... G Frank Ntilikina missed his second straight game

with a sprained left ankle, while C Mitchell Robinson sat out his 11th consecutive contest with a sprained left ankle.

Warriors: Thompson had his 12th career 40-point game. ... Durant's two blocks gave him 900 for his career. He also scored 20 or more points in his 14th straight game. ... Shaun Livingston, who needs one game for 800 in his career, sat out with soreness in his left knee. ... Golden State won 128-100 at New York on Oct. 26 and swept the two regular-season games with the Knicks for a fifth straight season. During that span starting in 2014-15, Golden State also is unbeaten against two other Eastern Conference opponents: Orlando (9-0) and Philadelphia (8-0). □

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Barty beats No. 1 Simona Halep in Romanian's tour return

Associated Press

SYDNEY (AP) — Ashleigh Barty broke Simona Halep's serve in the final game to beat the No. 1-ranked Halep 6-4, 6-4 in a second-round match Wednesday at the Sydney International. It was Halep's first match since October after a lengthy layoff due to a herniated disc in her back. Halep won last year's French Open and lost to Caroline Wozniacki in the Australian Open final.

"I think it was a great match after almost four months since I played one full match, the U.S. Open," Halep said. "I think I played a good level of tennis. She played really well. Her slice was great today, so she deserved to win this match."

"But also I was very close to win. I had so many chances to break her and to take advantage, but I couldn't." Halep said she was pain-free but would wait to see how she pulls up on Thursday before declaring that she is over the back injury. "No pain at all. I'm happy about that. It's a great sign," she said. "I will recover now, and I will see how I wake up tomorrow



Simona Halep, right, of Romania shakes hands with Ash Barty of Australia after Barty won their women's singles match at the Sydney International tennis tournament in Sydney, Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2019.

morning." Barty served five aces, no double-faults and broke Halep three times to reverse two previous losses to Halep last August.

"I finally learned my lesson," Barty said. "She gave me a belting in Montreal. I learned a little bit more in Cincinnati, but today I knuckled down and really

thought about it and really gave myself a chance.

"The biggest thing, I believed that I could win. We're both out here on the same court. Just very happy I was able to come out and execute."

The 27-year-old Halep will be at the Australian Open next week in Melbourne

without a coach after parting ways with Australian mentor Darren Cahill, who can longer commit to Halep due to family reasons. Cahill had coached Halep for four years.

In first-round matches, 10th-seeded Elise Mertens beat qualifier Katerina Siniakova 7-6 (4), 2-6, 6-2 and Anett

Associated Press

Kontaveit defeated Monica Puig 2-6, 7-5, 6-1.

In the second round, Timea Bacsinszky defeated Samantha Stosur 5-7, 6-4, 6-3 and Yulia Putintseva beat fourth-seeded Sloane Stephens 3-6, 7-6 (4), 6-0.

In men's play, Alex de Minaur beat American qualifier Reilly Opelka 6-4 7-6 (4) in a match suspended by rain after just one game on Tuesday night to advance to the quarterfinals against fellow Australian Jordan Thompson.

"I think I got lucky today. Reilly's an incredibly tough opponent," de Minaur said. "I took care of my chances. I would have loved to get the break in the second. I had a couple of chances, but I did well to focus on my serve and I'm glad things went my way today."

In other second-round matches, top-seeded Stefanos Tsitsipas defeated Guido Andreozzi 6-3, 6-4, third-seeded Diego Schwartzman beat qualifier Guillermo Garcia-Lopez 6-2, 6-3, and fourth-seeded Gilles Simon defeated Sam Querrey 7-6 (5), 6-7 (6), 6-4. □

Japan, Qatar start Asian Cup runs with narrow wins

Associated Press

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Qatar and Japan won their opening games at the Asian Cup on Wednesday, but for both teams it's all about 2022. Quite literally for Qatar, which is hosting the next World Cup that year and scored its first goal at 8:22 p.m. — or 2022 — Qatar time.

Japan's quest for a record fifth title started with a 3-2 victory over Turkmenistan, while Qatar earned a 2-0 win over Lebanon amid political tension with the host nation.

After giving up an early goal, Japan — which has a young squad that's been rebuilt with an eye on the next World Cup — scored three in quick succession to turn the game around.



Japan's forward Yuya Osako, center front, duels for the ball with Turkmenistan's midfielder Resul Hojayev during the AFC Asian Cup group F soccer match between Japan and Turkmenistan at Al Nahyan Stadium in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2019.

Yuya Osako scored in the 56th and 60th minutes, the latter following a goalkeeping error, and Ritsu Doan made it 3-1 in the 71st. Arslanmurat Amanov

scored with a long-range shot to give Turkmenistan — the Asian Cup's second lowest-ranked team — the lead in the 26th minute. Ahmet Atayev converted

a penalty kick toward the end after a foul by Japan goalkeeper Shuichi Gonda. After losing to Belgium in the last 16 of the World Cup, Japan is trying to rebuild. Coach Hajime Moriyasu left some experienced players off the team for the Asian Cup, including midfielder Shinji Kagawa and forward Shinji Okazaki. He is instead giving more prominence to players like Gonda, whose last competitive international game was in 2013. Uzbekistan finished the match with 10 men after defender Egor Krimets was sent off in stoppage time for fouling an opposing player who was through on goal.

Qatar dominated possession but lacked a cutting edge against Lebanon before Iraqi-born Bassam Al-

Rawi curled in a free kick in the 65th. Almoez Ali made it 2-0 from a rebound 14 minutes later.

Earlier, Lebanon thought it had scored its first major-tournament goal since 2000 through Ali Hamam at a corner, but it was ruled out for a foul away from the ball.

It was the first time in 35 years that Qatar won an Asian Cup game while not being the host.

Qatar is playing despite political tension with the host United Arab Emirates and Group E rival Saudi Arabia, which have blockaded Qatar, cutting many travel and trade links. That disrupted travel plans for the Qatari team and the head of the Asian Cup's organizing committee, who is Qatari. □

In shaming 90-year-old rider, anti-doping earns a black eye

By JOHN LEICESTER
AP Sports Writer

With each pedal-stroke of his 80- and now 90-year-old legs, Carl Grove sought to show his fellow Americans that old age can be rich and rewarding.

His bike is his soapbox. As time caught up with many of his peers, the former United States Navy Band saxophonist, who played for U.S. presidents and visiting VIPs and who was born on his parents' kitchen table during an Indiana thunderstorm the year before the Great Depression, is still riding to spread his stay-active message — despite a doping violation caused by a diner steak.

He has set age-group cycling records in the 80- and 90-year-old categories and accumulated 18 national championships. What matters most to Grove is setting a healthy, don't-give-up example in a country increasingly sickened by obesity and the inactivity of modern life. Through his exploits, his hope was to share the simple maxim he lives by: "Do not sit down."

"I see all kinds of people that, man, they go up two or three or four steps and I hear them kind of pant and what have you. This country is not like it used to be. I didn't see that when I was younger," says Grove, who will celebrate his 91st birthday on July 13.

"I try to show them that with just a little care and a little exercise and a proper attitude that, maybe, they can live the last eight, 10 years of their life with quality and not have aches and pains."

At the end of last year, the stay-fit mission he calls his "life's work" suffered a mighty and, in hindsight, completely unfair and unnecessary blow.

The U.S. Anti-Doping Agency informed Grove that traces of trenbolone, an anabolic steroid used by U.S. cattle farmers to bulk up livestock, were detected in a urine sample he gave at the U.S. Masters Track



In this photo taken on July 10, 2018, Carl Grove, a 90-year-old record-setting cyclist, races at the USA Cycling Masters Track Nationals in Breinigsville, PA.

National Championships in Trexlertown, Pennsylvania, last July, where the field's oldest competitor again added to his collection of titles, setting times faster than men in their 80s, 70s and even 60s. He was stripped of his gold medal in the pursuit — the day he tested positive — but kept two others.

Grove's conscience was clear. As USADA's own investigators eventually determined, he knew he hadn't doped. Instead, Grove had been inadvertently contaminated, probably by a dinner of cow's liver he ate at a local diner on the evening of July 10 — his way of celebrating his gold medal in the time trial that day, where he was the only competitor in the 90-94 age group.

Still, the failed test was tough on Grove. He knew how it would look, how short attention spans would put the words "cycling," "doping," "steroids," "disqualified" together and imagine the worst, perhaps picturing a 90-year-old version of Lance Armstrong,

cycling's most infamous dope cheat.

Sure enough, and despite USADA slipping its public announcement out on a Friday, news that an athlete so old had tested positive generated worldwide headlines this week and a mix of incredulity, mirth, sympathy and cruelty online.

"I was really kind of down for a while. But I'm over it," Grove now says, making his first and only public comments about the case in a telephone interview this week with The Associated Press. "I wanted to be an inspiration, if possible. I worked like a real horse to do it."

"They struck me from the records. I don't really care about that too much. The thing that I really, really care about is that I wanted to be a sterling, totally clean person in front of people that knew about me," he said.

"It looked like I had not been an honest person to a lot of people. I guess I was kind of worried about what did other people think, you know? Then, I began to think: 'Well, some of them

will believe me and some of them won't.' I guess that's just the way it is."

For the anti-doping system, this is another black eye. Grove says taxpayer dollars should, within reason, continue to be spent on policing amateur sport, not least to combat the increasing use of steroids. But the shaming of a well-intentioned great-grandfather smacks of vindictiveness. There are so many bigger battles, like cleaning up Russian sport, for the anti-doping system to fight.

USADA boss Travis Tygart says that even though the agency determined Grove wasn't at fault, it had no choice but to issue him with a public warning for the failed test, the lowest-level step it could take in such a case.

He "ate meat and had a test that you then can't just sweep under the carpet as much as you might otherwise want to," Tygart said. "Cases like this make us bang our head against the wall. The outcome is not right and it's a system gone awry."

Associated Press

Grove thinks taxpayer dollars that fund anti-doping could be better spent on catching cheats, not bystanders.

"Us old guys are kind of like peanuts. I think that they're wasting their time," he said. "What can I gain at 90 years old doing drugs? Tell me, I just don't know. So I think that somewhere there ought to be a cutoff and they ought to zero in on the stuff that is done for money reasons or whatever it may be. But I think after 65 or 70, you know, they ought to just give up."

Grove has a resilient attitude to go with his good genes (his mother lived to 105 and his father, a barber, was still cutting hair in his retirement home until a few years before his death at 97). He already has launched into a new challenge: breaking the age 90-95 record for distance ridden in an hour, set by Frenchman Rene Gaillard in 2017, who covered 29.278 kilometers (18 miles).

Grove said he'd start training immediately after getting off the phone with the AP. □

Summer coaching changes paying major dividends across NHL

By STEPHEN WHYNO

AP Hockey Writer

It wasn't the 15-hour flight to China for training camp that had general manager Brad Treliving's head spinning.

It was the pace of Bill Peters' first practice as coach of the Calgary Flames.

"I was tired watching it," Treliving said.

Peters has lost no time in helping the Flames improve and reach first place in the Pacific Division during his first season. In fact, the six teams that hired a new coach over the summer are all doing well — certainly when compared to the five that have dumped coaches already this season. Those clubs are a combined 47-60-11 since making those moves.

Peters and Todd Reirden, who took over the defending Stanley Cup champion Washington Capitals from Barry Trotz, will coach in the All-Star Game on Jan. 26 with their teams leading their respective divisions at the halfway mark.

Jim Montgomery's Dallas Stars are third in the Central Division and Barry Trotz's New York Islanders a point out of a playoff spot with extra games to play, while the New York Rangers are overachieving under David Quinn and the Carolina Hurricanes are taking steps forward after Rod Brind'Amour replaced Peters. For Reirden and Brind'Amour, the challenge was moving up from a role as a longtime assistant. Capitals and Hurricanes players say the transitions have been smooth because each coach hasn't altered his approach.

"(Reirden) is a completely different person, different personality, different style and I think he's stuck to who he is," Capitals defenseman John Carlson said. "What's helped him is just staying true to what we all expect out of him."

With almost the same roster back, Washington was expected to make the playoffs and take a good shot at repeating. Expectations were fuzzier for the Flames,

Islanders and Stars. Calgary had alternated making and missing the

coaching change three or four players get better and three or four get worse; he

sion are already positive. His job isn't to get New York into the playoffs right away



In this Oct. 9, 2018, file photo, Calgary Flames head coach Bill Peters argues a call with referee Dan O'Halloran (13) in the second period of an NHL hockey game against the Nashville Predators, in Nashville, Tenn.

Associated Press

playoffs under coaches Bob Hartley and Glen Gulutzan before Peters took over. The Flames' 58 points have them tied atop the Western Conference and trailing only the powerhouse Tampa Bay Lightning in the overall NHL standings, a big testament to Peters' puck-hounding style and straightforward communication.

"He's a great coach," star winger Johnny Gaudreau said. "He knows how to win. It doesn't matter if you're top line, bottom line, if you're not playing well you're not going to be on the ice. He's not going to put you over the bench there. He expects a lot out of his players and it's been great playing for him this year."

Trotz has had a similar impact with the Islanders, bringing much-needed structure to a team that missed the playoffs in back-to-back seasons and lost point-a-game center John Tavares to Toronto in free agency. Veteran GM Lou Lamoriello said with any

thinks Trotz has gotten the most out of a team far different than what he had in Washington.

"He's extremely detailed, very consistent in his approach as far as planning, execution, system and delivery," Lamoriello said of Trotz. "He has an outstanding delivery to the players as far as no highs, no lows and holds them accountable to what is being asked of them." In Dallas, top-line center Tyler Seguin said Montgomery has done a good job of giving players rest, sometimes opting for video work instead of practice. Despite an uproar over pointed comments made by CEO Jim Lites about the performance of Seguin and captain Jamie Benn, the Stars hold a wild-card spot in Montgomery's first NHL season after five years at the University of Denver.

Quinn spent five seasons at Boston University before GM Jeff Gorton hired him to coach the Rangers, and the returns on that deci-

but rather instill good habits. He is also occasionally scratching players young and old to set a standard for quality of play. "He's trying to set a tone of accountability here," Gorton said. "I think he's been consistent to who he is, and his philosophy is if guys aren't doing the job, then I've got to put guys in that are going to do it."

Consistency and familiarity have helped Brind'Amour with the Hurricanes, who lack scoring punch and have a league-worst nine-year playoff drought. The players respect his legendary work ethic.

"When he says it, you know he's done it and it makes you want to do it, too," defenseman Trevor van Riemsdyk said. "When he talks, he commands the room and I think he's a guy you really like to play for."

JOHNNY HOCKEY

No player in the NHL is hotter right now than Gaudreau, who's earning every bit of his "Johnny Hockey" nickname. His 16 goals

and 35 points in 18 games are the most in the league since Dec. 1 and inside the organization show the progression of the 25-year-old into an all-around superstar.

"There's a maturity to his game," Treliving said. "He's had a real defensive consciousness this year. Not that he hadn't in the past, but when he doesn't have (the puck), he's tracking to get it back."

TIGHT METRO

The top four teams in the Metropolitan Division — the Capitals, Penguins, Blue Jackets and Islanders — were separated by just six points. That could mean a Trotz vs. Reirden showdown in the first round, Washington-Pittsburgh again or any combination of first-round matchups among teams that look evenly matched.

"It's a challenge and it forces you to be on your game all the time," Reirden said.

BANGED-UP PREDATORS

Nashville has dealt with major injuries to several key players. Defenseman P.K. Subban missed 19 games before Christmas, winger Viktor Arvidsson missed 24 of 25 and winger Filip Forsberg missed 17 in a row before returning Monday. Nashville endured a six-game losing streak in December but has somehow thrived amid injuries in the stacked Central Division.

"There's no sense crying about it," coach Peter Laviolette said. "We've got to win hockey games."

GAME OF THE WEEK

The Boston Bruins visit the Toronto Maple Leafs on "Hockey Night in Canada" Saturday in what could be an Atlantic Division first-round playoff preview.

LEADERS (through Tuesday)
Goals: Alex Ovechkin (Washington), 30; **Assists:** Nikita Kucherov (Tampa Bay), 50; **Points:** Kucherov, 71; **Ice time:** Drew Doughty (Los Angeles), 26:38; **Wins:** Marc-Andre Fleury (Vegas), 25; **Goals-against average:** Robin Lehner (Islanders), 2.18; **Save percentage:** Jack Campbell (Los Angeles), .930. □

Man United revitalized with Solskjaer at the wheel

By STEVE DOUGLAS

AP Sports Writer

They've quickly created a song for Ole Gunnar Solskjaer at Manchester United. "Ole's at the wheel," the United faithful chant about their new manager. "Tell me how good does it feel." Much, much better than it did under Jose Mourinho.

The cloud over England's biggest soccer club has been lifted since United fired Mourinho, perhaps its most divisive manager ever, last month and replaced him with its former striker from Norway.

The effect: United has won five straight matches — four in the Premier League and another in the FA Cup — and scored 16 goals in the process.

The team and the fans have their swagger back. Where Mourinho scowled, Solskjaer smiles. Marquee players Paul Pogba and Alexis Sanchez, shunned by Mourinho, already look revitalized under Solskjaer.

So how has the man once known at United as the "Baby-faced Assassin" because of his boyish looks and ruthlessness in front of goal masterminded such a rapid turnaround of fortunes at the club?

ATMOSPHERE

The charm offensive began immediately, although it just feels natural with Solskjaer.

On his first day in his dream job, he made an early-morning arrival at United's training ground and gave a bar of Norwegian chocolate to the receptionist, Kath, who was working at the club throughout his time there as a player.

In many ways, Solskjaer accepted a daunting task when approached by vice executive chairman Ed Woodward to take over from Mourinho. United was sixth in the Premier League, 19 points off the lead and 11 adrift of the Champions League qualification positions, after its worst start to a top-flight season. Its squad looked lopsided, the dressing room fractured.

Yet he has taken to one of

the most pressure-filled positions in world soccer with ease. Always smiling, always with a cheerful dispo-

ba, the World Cup winner from France who joined United for \$116 million in 2016 as the world's most

in United's squad, have hit the ground running under Solskjaer.

The 21-year-old Rashford

United manager from 1986-2013, is being regularly contacted by Solskjaer and has been at one of the team's training sessions. It was the first time he had attended United's training ground since suffering a brain hemorrhage in May.

"He had a few nice chats with the staff and he encouraged us," Solskjaer said.

Ferguson signed Solskjaer from Norwegian club Molde in 1996 and has been the biggest single influence on his career, with Solskjaer saying "loads of my management revolves around what I learned from him."

Solskjaer's preferred style of play certainly revives memories of the Ferguson era. As does the frequent sight of him chewing gum on the sideline.

SCHEDULE

The reality is that Solskjaer couldn't have picked a better time to start his interim tenure.

Cardiff (5-1), Huddersfield (3-1) and Bournemouth (4-1) were three of the weakest teams in the Premier League, while a home match against struggling second-tier team Reading (2-0) in the FA Cup also offered an easy route to the fourth round.

Solskjaer's biggest test so far was the match at Newcastle, which United won 2-0 but only through goals in the final half-hour from Lukaku and Rashford.

Still, the true measure of United's progress will come on Sunday when United travels to play title contender Tottenham.

With a victory at Wembley Stadium, there will be no doubt that United is onto a winner with Solskjaer and may keep its former striker on beyond this season. □



Manchester United interim manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer celebrates defeating Huddersfield after the English Premier League soccer match at Old Trafford, Manchester, England, Wednesday Dec. 26, 2018.

Associated Press

sition. Just simply enjoying himself.

"They are good players and it's up to them to use their imagination, creativity and just enjoy playing for this club," Solskjaer said, "because that's the best time of your life."

APPROACH

That positivity and joyfulness has been reflected on the field.

Defensive and cautious under the pragmatic Mourinho, United is playing with more freedom now and more akin to its traditions of attacking soccer. Right from Solskjaer's first match in charge — a 5-1 win at Cardiff — everything about United's play has been forward-looking. The midfielders and wingers appear to be playing 20 yards further upfield and there is less fear about conceding a goal.

"It's about us. It's about Man United," Solskjaer said. "We want to see them express themselves."

POGBA

No player has benefited more from the change of managers than Paul Pogba

expensive player.

Pogba's relationship with Mourinho had broken down to the extent that he was dropped from the team for Mourinho's final matches in charge.

Solskjaer had previously said he would build United's team around Pogba, who he coached with the club's reserve team a decade ago, if he ever became manager. He has been true to his word, with Pogba playing a central role in United's recovery. He scored four goals and set up three more in Solskjaer's first three games, and had more passes and shots on target than any other United player in those matches.

Another player who appeared to have fallen out with Mourinho, Alexis Sanchez, has set up two goals in two matches under Solskjaer since returning from injury, and is being seen like a new signing after struggling since joining from Arsenal last January.

STRIKERS

Marcus Rashford and Romelu Lukaku, the two strikers

has scored in three of the four league games, giving United a new dimension with his pace and directness up front. He already seems to be a favorite of Solskjaer, who talks excitedly of the England international's talent and potential.

Lukaku has responded well to Rashford's challenge, scoring in all three games he has played — twice within minutes of coming on as a substitute against Bournemouth and Newcastle. Solskjaer was known as a so-called "super-sub" because of his goal-scoring exploits off the bench and Lukaku is playing in his new manager's image.

Not just that, but Lukaku is playing a different way, stretching defenses and playing on the shoulder of the last defender instead of dropping deeper to link up play. That is surely the Solskjaer effect.

FERGIE TIME

Solskjaer is learning from — and leaning on — the best while reviving a sleeping giant.

Alex Ferguson, the great

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Remember virtual reality? Its buzz has faded at CES 2019

By MAE ANDERSON

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Just a few years ago, virtual reality was poised to take over the world. After decades of near misses, the revolution finally seemed imminent, with slick consumer headsets about to hit the market and industries from gaming and entertainment to social media ready to hop on the bandwagon.

But the buzz over VR has faded to a whisper. At the CES 2019 tech show in Las Vegas, Facebook's Oculus unit isn't holding any glitzy press events, just closed-door demos for its upcoming Oculus Quest, a \$399 untethered headset due out in the spring. Other VR companies are similarly subdued. HTC announced two new headsets — one with only sketchy details — while Sony has some kiosks for its \$300 PlayStation VR set in the main hall.

It's a world away from the scene a few years ago, when VR products from Samsung, Oculus, HTC and Sony seemed omnipresent and unstoppable at CES. These days, VR is mostly a niche product for gaming and business training, held back by expensive, clunky headsets, a paucity of interesting software and other technological shortcomings. "VR hasn't escaped the early adopter, gamer-oriented segment," said Forrester analyst J.P. Gownder — himself an early adopter who chafed in 2016 at delays in shipping Facebook's then-ground-breaking Oculus Rift system. Gownder said many existing VR setups are still too hard to use; even simpler mobile systems like Samsung's Gear VR, he said, don't offer "a clear reason for the average non-gamer to get involved."

VR proponents are still dreaming big, although the challenges remain formidable. Shipments of VR headsets rose 8 percent in the third quarter compared to the previous year, to 1.9 million units, according to data research firm International Data Corp. — an up-



People use Oculus VR headsets at the Panasonic booth at CES International, Tuesday, Jan. 8, 2019, in Las Vegas.

tick that followed four consecutive quarters of decline. Nearly a quarter of a million units of Facebook's Oculus Go and Xiaomi's Mi VR — the same stand-alone VR headset, sold under different names in different markets — shipped worldwide in the quarter, IDC said. Those still aren't huge numbers for a technology that seemed to hold such promise in 2012 when early demonstrations of the Oculus Rift wowed audiences — so much that Facebook acquired Oculus for \$2 billion two years later. Despite large sums ploughed into the field by Facebook, Sony, Samsung, Microsoft and Google, VR hasn't yet made much of a dent in the real world. Some of the biggest consumer complaints involve expense, laggy or glitchy graphics and the fact that many systems still tether the headsets to gaming consoles or PCs. "Technology is still what's holding VR back," said eMarketer analyst Victoria Petrock. Upcoming stand-alone headsets like the Oculus Quest could solve some of those problems.

More alarming, though, VR still suffers from a lack of hit software. Many major game publishers have largely avoided the field so far, and venture funding for VR software development

has nosedived this year. SuperData, a digital games and VR market research company owned by Nielsen Holdings, estimates that consumer VR software investments dropped by a stunning 59 percent in 2018, to \$173 million from \$420 million the year before. Software makers are retrenching. IMAX said in late December it was shutting

down its VR unit. Jaunt, a startup focused on cinematic VR and once backed by Disney, restructured this year. Its new focus? VR's cousin technology, "augmented reality," which paints consumer-simulated objects into the real world, a la the cartoonish monsters of "Pokemon Go." A few games have been modest hits. "Beat Saber" a

Associated Press

VR game in which players move a lightsaber to music, sold over 100,000 copies in its first month and became the seventh highest-rated game on Steam, according to Forbes. But such titles are few and far between. There's one other problem: VR isn't very social, Petrock said. There's no easy way to share the experience with others on social media or within the games themselves, making a VR experience less likely to go viral the way, say, "Fortnite" has. "You have your headset strapped on and you're in a virtual world but it is solitary," she said.

VR "is still is the next big thing, but anything good takes time and effort," said Gartner analyst Tuong Nguyen. "The industry as a whole did overhype it." He compares the current VR industry to the TV industry when HDTV first came out. People bought new high-definition sets but were disappointed when there wasn't anything to watch in the new format. For VR, "the kind of breadth and depth of content isn't all quite there," he said. □

Giving up gas: China's Shenzhen switches to electric taxis

Associated Press

SHENZHEN, China (AP) — One of China's major cities has reached an environmental milestone: an almost entirely electric-powered taxi fleet.

The high-tech hub of Shenzhen in southern China announced at the start of this year that 99 percent of the 21,689 taxis operating in the city were electric. Last year, it still had 7,500 gasoline-powered taxis on the roads. A few can still be found, but electric ones far outnumber them.

The metropolis of 12.5 million is the second to achieve this feat in China and the largest. The northern China city of Taiyuan, with a population of 4.3 million, has had only elec-



In this Monday, Jan. 7, 2019, photo, new electric-powered taxis are seen in Shenzhen city, south China's Guangdong province.

Associated Press

tric taxis since 2016. Shenzhen "has taken the lead among major Chinese cities," said Cui Dongshu, the secretary-general of the China Passenger Car Association. Shenzhen's bus fleet has been all-electric since 2017. It's one of 13 pilot cities promoting alternative-energy public transport to cut smog and

develop the alternative energy industry, the Shenzhen Municipality Transport Committee said. Beijing and other Chinese cities are served by legions of electric scooters, bicycles and three-wheeled delivery vehicles that help reduce emissions — and sometimes startle pedestrians with their near-silent operation. □

Global stocks sustain rally as US-China trade talks wrap up

By MARLEY JAY

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks around the world built on their early 2019 rally Wednesday after negotiators from the U.S. and China extended their trade talks to a third day, which investors took as a sign the discussions were productive even though no major breakthroughs have been announced. Oil prices also continued to climb and stocks linked to faster economic growth, such as technology companies, kept climbing.

KEEPING SCORE: The S&P 500 index climbed 6 points, or 0.3 percent, to 2,580 as of 9:50 a.m. Eastern time. The Dow Jones Industrial Average gained 110 points, or 0.5 percent, to 23,900. The Nasdaq composite rose 29 points, or 0.4 percent, to 6,926. The Russell 2000 index of smaller and U.S.-focused stocks added 4 points, or 0.3 percent, to 1,431. Indexes in Europe and Asia made bigger gains. Germany's DAX added 1.3 percent and the CAC 40 in France climbed 1.4 percent. Britain's FTSE 100 jumped 1 percent. Japan's



In this Jan. 3, 2019, file photo specialist Michael Pistillo, right, works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange.

Nikkei 225 index gained 1.1 percent and the Hang Seng in Hong Kong rallied 2.3 percent. South Korea's Kospi advanced 2 percent. **CHINA-US TRADE:** The latest round of trade negotiations between the world's two largest economic powers have now concluded, but investors were cheered when they learned the two-day talks would be

extended. No details were immediately announced. The Trump administration wants the government of President Xi Jinping to alter its handling of technology and intellectual property held by foreign companies, and change plans for government-led creation of Chinese leaders in advanced technologies. Chinese officials have suggest-

Associated Press

ed they could revise some of their industrial plans but have but won't abandon larger goals that they consider a path to prosperity and global influence. **FIVE O'CLOCK SOMEWHERE:** Beer and wine maker Constellation Brands slumped after it cut its annual profit forecast, saying it now expects sales and profits for its wine and spirits division

to fall in the current fiscal year. The stock gave up 10.4 percent to \$154.37.

EARLY RISERS: Technology companies kept edging higher after their steep losses over the final months of 2018. Chipmakers made some of the largest gains. Intel climbed 1.3 percent to \$48.37 and Micron Technology picked up 6.6 percent to \$3.598. Elsewhere, Microsoft added 0.8 percent to \$103.67.

OVERSEAS: ENERGY: Oil prices also continued to rally. U.S. crude rose 3.3 percent to \$51.40 a barrel in New York. It hasn't traded above \$50 a barrel in almost a month. Brent crude, used to price international oils, added 2.8 percent to \$60.35 a barrel in London. Crude oil is on track to rise for the eighth day in a row and ninth in the last 10. U.S. crude has jumped 13 percent so far in 2019.

BONDS: Bond prices continued to fall. That sent yields higher, a sign investors expect more economic growth and higher long-term interest rates. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note rose to 2.73 percent from 2.71 percent. □

Eurozone unemployment a bright spot amid growing gloom



In this picture taken Aug. 7, 2018 containers are located at the container terminal Tollerort in the port of Hamburg, Germany.

Associated Press

By PAN PYLAS
Associated Press
LONDON (AP) — Unemployment across the 19-country eurozone fell in November to a decade-low rate, official figures showed Wednesday, but worries over the economic outlook have stoked concerns it may not fall much lower, if at all. Eurostat, the European

Union's statistics agency, said a 90,000 monthly fall in the number out of work to 13.04 million reduced the overall rate to 7.9 percent from the previous month's 8 percent.

Unemployment across the eurozone has been falling steadily from a peak of 12.1 percent in 2013 as the region recovered from the global financial crisis.

However, ongoing worries about the level of government debt in a number of countries kept unemployment high, such as Greece and Spain.

In recent days, evidence has been piling up that the eurozone recovery lost more momentum than anticipated at the end of 2018, particularly in Germany. And that could have an impact on businesses' hiring intentions. Unemployment is considered a lagging indicator in that it takes months for changes in the broader economy to feed through into the labor market.

Bert Colijn, a senior economist at ING, said the decline was a relief as "it indicates that uncertainty about the economic outlook and a slowing pace of growth has not caused employ-

ment growth to grind to a halt just yet."

Colijn said there are signs though that firms are "adjusting their employment

needs downwards" and that could cause the unemployment decline "to slow again in the months ahead." □

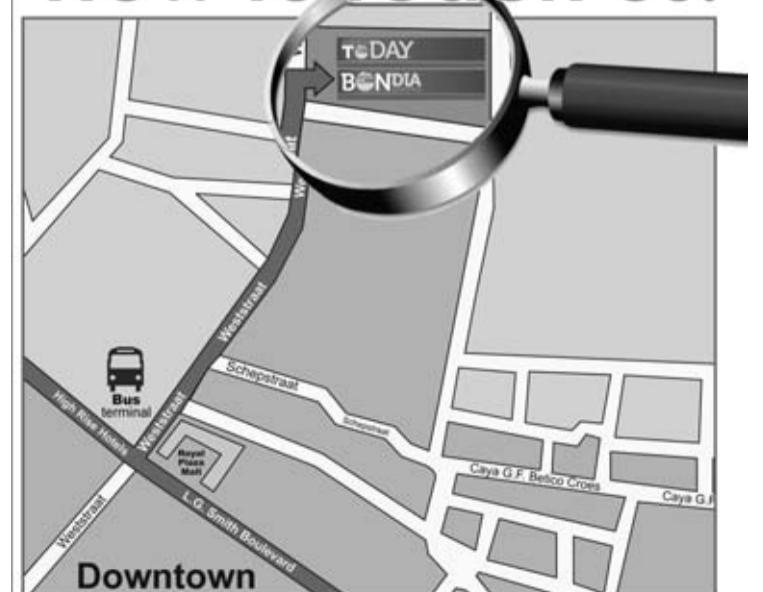


TODAY



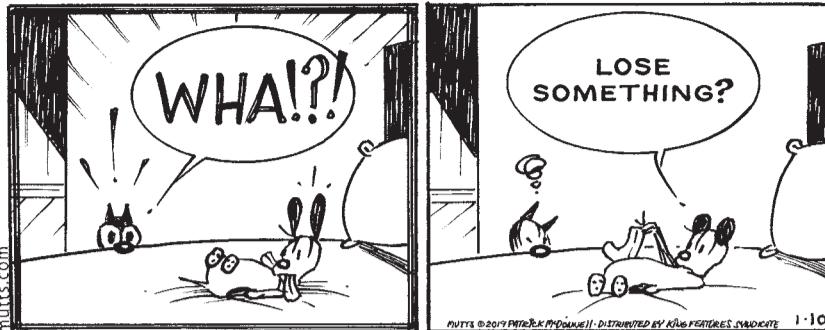
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Mutts

LITTLE PINK
SOCK-LITTLE
PINK SOCK !



Conceptis Sudoku

		3		8							
1	6		2		5	4					
7					8						9
7		8								6	
6										5	
4									2		
3	2		8		4	1					
					2		9				

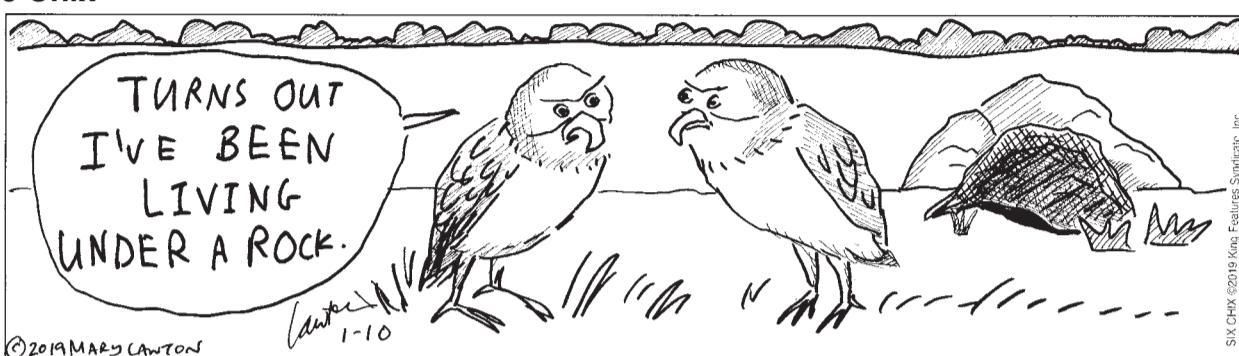
Difficulty Level ★★★

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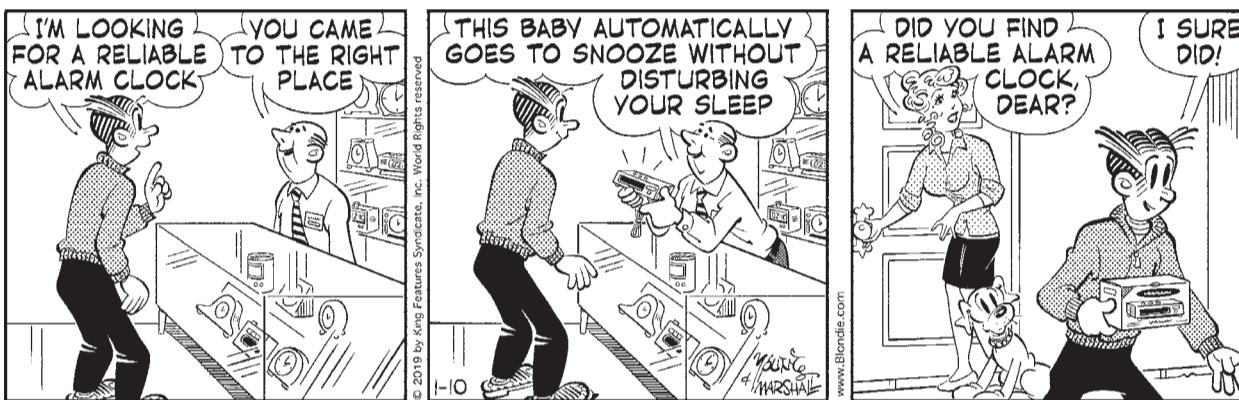
1/10

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

6 Chix



Blondie



Yesterday's puzzle answer

2	8	4	3	1	7	9	5	6			
3	6	9	5	8	4	1	2	7			
5	1	7	9	6	2	8	3	4			
8	4	3	1	2	5	6	7	9			
1	2	5	6	7	9	4	8	3			
7	9	6	8	4	3	5	1	2			
9	7	2	4	5	8	3	6	1			
4	5	1	2	3	6	7	9	8			
6	3	8	7	9	1	2	4	5			

Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits

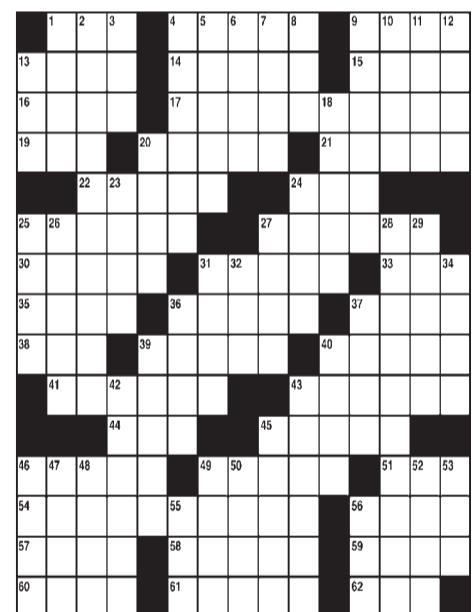


ACROSS

1 Isn't __ to; probably won't
4 One not to be trusted
9 "Heidi" setting
13 Gush forth
14 Tranquility
15 Grow fatigued
16 Long sandwich
17 Irregular heartbeat
19 Feminine suffix
20 __ enough; ironically
21 Packages of paper
22 Snoops
24 Actor Diesel
25 Planetary visitors
27 Summarizes
30 Baseball's Jeter
31 Command to Fido
33 Tease
35 Enthusiastic
36 __ pneumonia; flu complication
37 Oz visitor
38 Guys
39 Put off; postpone
40 Originated
41 Self-centered person
43 Rock __; open excavation
44 Floor pad
45 Actress Delta
46 Quaking tree
49 On __; counting calories
51 Behold
54 Clavicle
56 As comfortable __ old shoe
57 Laurel or larch
58 Straighten
59 Round up cattle
60 Fanny
61 Trait transmitters
62 Promos

DOWN

1 Chimps & orangutans
2 Sweaty
3 Toddler's age
18 Ruse
20 Sty cry
23 Tall piece of marsh grass
24 Meat store purchase
25 Early man
26 Embankment
27 Raise, as kids
28 Gained ground
29 Stringed instrument
31 Use a sieve
32 Prefix for pay or med
34 Too thin
36 Upper body garment
47 __ as a boil



Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

L	I	F	T	U	P	O	S	T	W		
A	C	R	E	S	P	A	N	E	T	Y	P
S	A	U	L	T	S	W	E	E	T	N	E
H	N	S	A	T	E	D	E	P	E	N	D
T	A	C	I	T	L	A	P				
S	T	R	I	K	E	R	E	C	E	S	S
W	E	A	R	S	F	L	A	S	P	D	
A	R	T	S	R	O	A	M	N	O	N	
P	R	E	F	I	D	S	H	O	R	D	
A	D	R	I	F	T	M	A	T	R	Y	
E	L	F	O	R	M	S	F	O	M		
F	A	M	U	P	A	P	E	P			
E	Q	I	T	A	B	S	C	A			
A	U	N	T	F	A	I	L	S			
R	A	G	S	F	A	D	S	G			

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1/10/19

37 Yellowish-brown wood
39 Mother of prunes
40 Actor Reynolds
42 Breakfast order
43 Picture cards
45 Spree
46 Performs
47 __ as a boil
48 Entreaty
49 Qualified
50 Tire completely; exhaust
52 All __; listening
53 Tight __; football position
55 Scrap of cloth
56 Cry of discovery

Classifieds

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Editor

Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.
 Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668
 Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.
 Acc. #23951903
 RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

Assistant Director

Xiomara Arends

Editor in Chief

Linda Reijnders

(linda.reijnders@cspnv.com)
 Liza Koolman (Management assistant)

Editors

Richard Brooks
 Jeancarlo Trinidad

Sales

Linda Reijnders
 (linda.reijnders@cspnv.com)

Sulaika Croes

Classifieds

Rachelle Danje
 (rachelle.danje@cspnv.com)

Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website

Cristian Soto Garcia
 Pilar Flores
 Juan Luis PintoWeststraat 22
 T: 582-7800
 E: news@arubatoday.com
 W: www.arubatoday.com
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1BR WK # 2 room# D 102 even
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 1 BR WK# 2 room # G303 Odd
 year
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 year.
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Divi Links Golf

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 25 weeks remain \$8000
 1 BR WK # 1 and 2
 32 weeks remain \$ 9000 each
 Studio wk # 5 and 6
 25 and 30 Weeks remain \$
 17,000 Both

Divi Links Golf

1 BR WK # 4 and 5
 25 and 30 weeks remain \$ 9000
 each

1 BR WK # 4

20 weeks remain \$9000

Divi Village

1 BR WK # 1
 24 weeks remain \$ 9000
 Studio WK # 1
 23 weeks remain \$ 8000
 Studio WK # 6
 22 weeks remain \$8000

Paradise Beach Villas

1 BR WK # 1 and 2
 2nd phase 2nd floor
 Pool/ Ocean View \$ 9000 each

Aruba Divi Phoenix

1 BR 1 1/2 Bath
 10 Floor Tower
 11 weeks remain \$7500

Aruba Divi Phoenix

2 BR Penthouse WK # 1
 28 weeks remain \$35K
 1 BR WK # 6 in the front villas
 2nd floor 28 weeks remain \$

12,500

1BR WK # 8 \$ 16,500
 6 building 4 th floor 29 weeks
 remain

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 Wks 5 & 6/1521 (\$20,000/wk)
 Wk 7/1308 (\$18,000)
 Wks 7 & 8/1408 (\$18,000)
 Wk 8/1113 (\$17,000)
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When it comes to brain tumors, a patient's sex matters

By The Associated Press

Have you ever wondered why, in most species, males are larger and more ornamented than females? It's an evolutionarily determined aspect of biology, but what does it mean for human health and disease? What are the implications of needing one chart to describe normal growth in boys, and another to describe normal growth in girls? Why are there two normals for growth, and does it matter for a disease of growth like cancer?

I'm a pediatric brain tumor doctor and scientist and am interested in developing new treatments for glioblastoma (GBM) and other malignant brain tumors. Glioblastoma is the most common malignant brain tumor and killed the late Sens. John McCain and Ted Kennedy, and Beau Biden III, the eldest child of former U.S. Vice President Joe Biden.

In this new year, about 22,000 Americans will develop glioblastoma, and nearly the same number will die from it. While GBM occurs in both males and females, we can reliably predict that of the 22,000 new cases, 8,500 will be in females while the remaining 13,500 cases will be in males. Moreover, the female GBM patients can be expected to survive about six months longer than the male patients, on average. My colleagues and I wondered whether basic differences in biology might explain why males were more vulnerable to these malignant brain tumors and why their survival time was shorter than for females. We hypothesized that if there were differences between

the male and female version of glioblastoma, we might be able to generate new, sex-specific ap-

into this paradigm. In our recent study in *Science Translational Medicine*, my collaborators and I provide

slowed tumor proliferation, but this was not the case for male patients. Male tumors continued to grow at



In this May 25, 2017 file photo, chemotherapy drugs are administered to a patient at a hospital in Chapel Hill, N.C.

Associated Press

proaches to treatment that would improve outcomes for everyone.

Sex and disease

Many human diseases exhibit substantial sex differences in their frequency and severity. Autoimmune disorders such as systemic lupus erythematosus occur nine times more frequently in females than males, and psychiatric diseases such as like depression occur nearly twice as frequently in females compared to males. The implications of sex differences in cancer have not been extensively investigated in clinical or laboratory research.

While there is a great interest in developing more personalized approaches to cancer treatment, a patient's sex, a key feature of personalization, has not yet been incorporated

what we think is compelling evidence that patients' sex should be incorporated into treatments for glioblastoma and more thoroughly investigated in the laboratory.

In our study, we sought to determine whether differences in survival for males and females with glioblastoma were a consequence of different responses to the standard treatment: surgery, radiation and temozolamide chemotherapy. And, if there were, we wanted to explore whether there were sex-specific mechanisms that contribute to treatment response and survival in males and females.

First, we analyzed standard magnetic resonance images – or MRIs – of 371 patients' brains taken during routine treatment at the Mayo Clinic. We measured how the tumor proliferated and grew in the brains of these patients and how the tumor invaded and spread into the surrounding brain tissue. Both proliferation and invasion ultimately kill the patient.

We found that in female patients, radiation and chemotherapy treatment

the same rate, unhindered by these treatments. In addition, we found that tumor proliferation predicted survival for both males and females but invasion only affected survival for females.

How genes affect cancer growth

We concluded that female patients' better response to standard treatment for glioblastoma and better survival might be determined in a sex-specific fashion by invasion in addition to proliferation. However, survival in male patients appeared to only be influenced by proliferation.

The genes are the tools that cells use for these functions. If researchers can identify the tools cancers use to grow, we can try to design treatments to disable them.

To do this, we took advantage of a large amount of publicly available data through The Cancer Genome Atlas, the Rembrandt study and two additional databases on cancer gene activity, which geneticists call refer to as gene expression. Then using a specialized kind of math, known as Joint and Individual Variance Explained, we found signifi-

cant differences in the activities of genes in male and female glioblastoma.

We think it is important that we discovered some genes had different effects on survival in male and female patients. For instance, when the levels of a gene called CCNB2 were low in males, they survived longer. This was not the case for females. In females, when levels of a gene known as PCDHB were low, females survived longer. This was not the case for males. This suggests that it is essential that researchers study the impact of drugs on male and female cells separately, for GBM and possibly other cancers.

We were intrigued that male survival was significantly determined by genes that controlled rates of cell division, whereas female survival was significantly determined by genes that can regulate the ability of a cancer cell to migrate to a different area of the brain. This suggests that some types of drugs that target how cancer cells divide might work better in males, whereas drugs that inhibit cancer cells from spreading to distant organs might be more effective in females.

What drives cancers in men versus women?

Finally, we used asked whether the levels of gene expression mattered for how the cancer cells respond to chemotherapy in a dish. This is important because it might help researchers, including our team, to design treatments for patients by screening large numbers of drugs to find the ones to which they are most sensitive.

We found that the low levels of genes involved in proliferation were linked to longer survival in male patients and greater sensitivity to chemotherapy in a dish. Similarly, we found that low levels of genes involved in cell migration were associated with longer survival in female patients and increased sensitivity to the same chemotherapy in a dish. □

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Andre Braugher leads 'Brooklyn Nine-Nine' to a new network

By LYNN ELBER

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — When Andre Braugher learned last May that Fox's "Brooklyn Nine-Nine" was canceled, it was an ending that he'd anticipated after five years and softening ratings.

"When we weren't on the schedule for Fox, I said to my wife, 'Here's the new chapter, or whatever it is. Let's see what it brings.' And then I went to bed."

Morning arrived with the news that the police sitcom was getting a second chance at NBC, which had decided there was life left in the series produced by corporate sibling Universal Television. It begins its new



In this Nov. 2, 2018 file photo, Andre Braugher, a cast member in the television series "Brooklyn Nine-Nine," poses for a portrait at CBS Radford Studios in Los Angeles.

season Thursday.

Cardi B leads iHeartRadio Awards with 13 nods, Drake has 8



In this March 11, 2018, file photo, Cardi B accepts the Best New Artist award during the 2018 iHeartRadio Music Awards in Inglewood, Calif.

Associated Press

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Cardi B has 13 reasons to celebrate: She's nominated for 13 honors at the 2019 iHeartRadio Music Awards.

IHeartMedia announced Wednesday that the rapper is the most nominated act, competing for honors such as song of the year for "Girls Like You" with Maroon 5 and female artist of the year. Drake follows Cardi B with eight nominations and is up for song of the year with

"God's Plan."

Other song-of-the-year nominees include Ed Sheeran's "Perfect," Post Malone's "Better Now" and "The Middle" by Zedd, Maren Morris and Grey.

The iHeartRadio Awards will make its debut on Fox when it airs live March 14 from the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles.

Ariana Grande earned six nominations, while J Balvin, Maroon 5, Post Malone and Marshmello each scored five nominations. □

"I missed all the drama. I have no idea what happened overnight," said Braugher, whose steady gaze and thoughtful manner indicate not much else eludes him — unless by choice.

That includes the Hollywood glad-handing that can be critical to building a career. Instead, Braugher has given priority to his East Coast-based family, including his wife, actress and singer Ami Brabson, and their three sons.

"I would be neglecting something important for something not so important," he said during a taping break. "So there's a lot of parties I've missed. But that's OK."

He's succeeded without the networking and although he started at a time when parts for African-American actors were, as he put it, "few and far between. Period." The breakthrough came with his Emmy-winning lead role as police detective Frank Pembleton on the 1990s

series "Homicide: Life on the Street," now part of a full, 30-year screen career stretching from "Glory" in 1989 to "Men of a Certain Age" in 2009-11 to the career-twist comedy of "Brooklyn Nine-Nine."

Besides his 10 Emmy nominations (including three for "Brooklyn Nine-Nine") and a second Emmy for "Thief" in 2006, Braugher earned

Obie Awards for his New York City stage work in "Henry V" and "Whipping Man."

When he thought the sitcom was over, Braugher looked to the stage for a different challenge. He's producing as well appearing in a new play, "Tell Them I'm Still Young" by Julia Doolittle, taking advantage of a taping hiatus for "Brooklyn Nine-Nine" to balance the dual commitments.

"I've been an actor my entire life, and so I've been one cog in a giant machine," he said. "But now I think I want to really explore learning more about the larger process, rather than my one part about it."

The work, about a couple whose marriage under siege from heartbreak, makes its debut with a Jan. 24-Feb. 3 run at the performing arts center in South Orange, New Jersey. Braugher stars opposite Broadway actress Michele Pawk ("Hairspray," "Mamma Mia").

"People under extraordinary stress perform in extraordinary ways," he said. "This couple has lost their daughter, so in the midst of this tragedy they're looking to regain and hold onto what they have."

While he's known for drama, Braugher said he adapted happily to the change-up of "Brooklyn Nine-Nine" when the sit-

com that revels in physical schtick started in 2013.

After doing much research on "horrific crimes," including for his "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit" role as attorney Bayard Ellis, "there comes a time in which you want to do something different, something lighter," Braugher said.

"Brooklyn Nine-Nine" gave him the opportunity to learn from Andy Samberg and the show's other comedic actors as he shaped his performance as Capt. Ray Holt, who's contented in his home life with husband Kevin (Marc Evan Jackson) but seeking to advance in the police ranks.

"I just felt as though it was an opportunity to do something strikingly different from the rest of my career," Braugher said. "I like it because it just simply opens up my mind and forces me to think in a different way. So I think I've become much more sort of supple as an actor, and more open to the incredible number of possibilities of how to play a scene."

Dan Goor, who created the comedy with Michael Schur, is unsparing in his praise of Braugher.

He is "a genius whose gravitas and warmth as an actor anchor the entire show," Goor said.

Since Braugher has made it clear there's more to life than work, he's kept to his schedule of taping the sitcom in Los Angeles and heading home each weekend. His youngest son is in boarding school, the other two in college, including the oldest at Braugher's alma mater, the Juilliard School.

"They're pursuing their lives. They're well-adjusted," he said. "I've accomplished one of my great goals, which was to see my young men become honorable men."

He said he fills his off hours with cooking, hanging out with his wife and helping her start an arts-related business by serving as her "gofer, her all-around factotum. And that's a good thing to do." □

Netflix's 'Sex Education' is a trans-Atlantic love letter

By MARK KENNEDY

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Among the bumper crop of original series debuting this month on Netflix is one that's both a time warp and a trans-Atlantic hug. It's called "Sex Education" and it's like a classic John Hughes high school comedy bloomed in the United Kingdom.

"It's very much a contemporary British love letter to American high school films," says series star Gillian Anderson of "The X-Files" fame.

In this quirky and refreshing series, Anderson and Asa Butterfield of Martin Scorsese's "Hugo" play mother and son, each exploring the contemporary sexual landscape. And the real landscape for this often frank discussion of sexuality is, well, not specific.

The eight episodes of the first season were shot mostly in southeast Wales. And while the actors have English accents, they throw around American footballs on campus, wear letter jackets and plan for prom.



This image released by Netflix shows Asa Butterfield, left, and Gillian Anderson in a scene from "Sex Education."

The soundtrack is rich in 1980s songs, from The Smiths to Billy Idol.

"It is this kind of Nowheresville," said Butterfield. "We don't say where it is and it's got these rolling hills and these people dress a bit like they're from the '80s. It has kind of got a timeless

vibe to it which I think really helped make the show stand out."

Butterfield plays a smart but socially awkward 16-year-old student who has had little sexual experience, despite living with his sex therapist mom. "He's like this sex wizard but he is cursed with the inability to

do anything with all this information," Butterfield said of his character.

He teams up with a smart-bad girl to create an underground sex therapy clinic, leaning on the knowledge he's absorbed over the years. There's plenty of nudity and blunt examination of everything from

Associated Press

same-sex love, abortion and wet dreams. Netflix itself describes the show as "heartfelt, raunchy and irreverent."

Anderson plays blunt single mom Jean, whose home is filled with sex manuals and toys. She's so open about the topic that she has no problem snooping around her son's bedroom or asking embarrassing questions about his sexuality while they're watching a movie. "I don't often get to mix odd with comedy. My odd characters have been quite serious and disturbing, and so jumping into something that had that to offer was definitely a plus I think," she said.

The series also benefits from some rising talent, including Emma Mackey as a smart outcast (she corrects the grammar in graffiti that targets her) and Ncuti Gatwa, playing Butterfield's best friend and moral compass. (When asked by Butterfield's character what he should wear for a date, Gatwa replies: "Think Jon Hamm, but chilled. Like casual Hamm.") □

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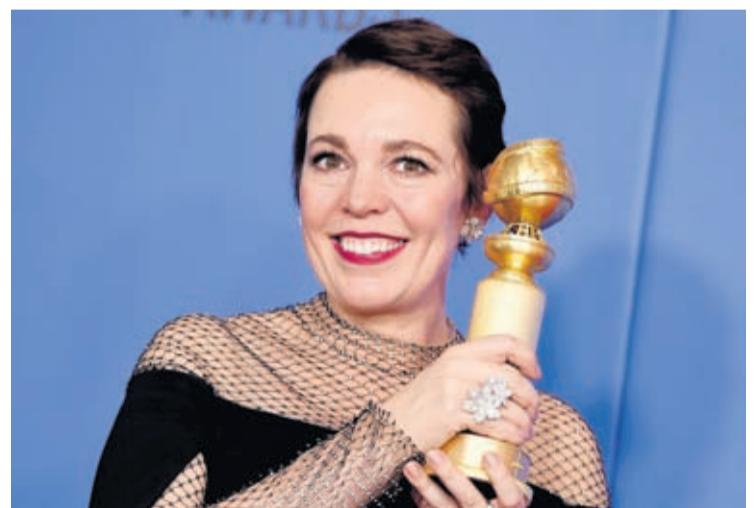
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'The Favourite' leads race for British Academy Film Awards

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Wickedly funny royal comedy-drama "The Favourite" lived up to its name Wednesday, leading the race for the British Academy Film Awards.

Yorgos Lanthimos' film received 12 nominations for the U.K. equivalent of the Oscars, including best film, best director and best actress, for Olivia Colman. Colman won a Golden Globe on Sunday for her performance as Britain's 18th-century Queen Anne. Colman's co-stars, Emma Stone and Rachel Weisz, received supporting-actress nominations as the two women competing for the monarch's patronage. Freddie Mercury biopic "Bohemian Rhapsody," lunar drama "First Man," autobiographical Mexican story "Roma" and musical



Olivia Colman poses in the press room with the award for best performance by an actress in a motion picture, musical or comedy for "The Favourite" at the 76th annual Golden Globe Awards at the Beverly Hilton Hotel on Sunday, Jan. 6, 2019, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Associated Press

melodrama "A Star Is Born" each received seven nominations for the prizes, considered an indicator of likely success at Hollywood's Academy Awards in what's shaping up to be an unpredictable awards season. Best-picture nominees for the British awards, known as BAFTAs, are "BlackKklansman," "The Favourite," "Green Book," "Roma" and "A Star is Born." □

In 2019, immigration novels are especially timely

By HILLEL ITALIE

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Not long before Election Day, 2016, Samira Ahmed completed the first draft of her novel, "Internment," a dystopian narrative about the rounding up of Muslim-Americans.

As the news came in that Donald Trump had been elected, Ahmed received a text from a friend who had read the manuscript and feared Ahmed had written a work of prophecy. "She said, 'I hope you're not Cassandra,'" Ahmed told The Associated Press during a recent telephone interview.

Novels about immigrants, like immigration itself, are a long and central part of American culture. In 2019, books conceived before Trump's rise arrive with a special timeliness as the president, who has called Mexican immigrants "rapists" and advocated for a Muslim travel ban, shut down the federal government over his insistence on funding for a wall along the country's southern border. He has often pushed back on accusations that he is xenophobic and anti-immigrant, and defended his actions by saying that controlling immigration was important for national security.

In an Associated Press-



This combination photo of cover images shows "Lost Children Archive," a novel about young immigrants separated from their families, by Valeria Luiselli, left, and "The Other Americans," a novel by Laila Lalami which comes out March 26.

Associated Press

NORC Center for Public Affairs Research poll conducted shortly before the shutdown, 49 percent mentioned immigration as one of the top five problems they hoped the government addresses in 2019. Only 27 percent mentioned immigration in December 2017.

"While current headlines give readers timely coverage of immigration, fiction offers deeper and more complex explorations of the issue," says Laila Lalami, whose novel "The Other Americans" comes out March 26.

New fiction is set everywhere from Virginia to California and confronts the American Dream narrative

of assimilation and upward mobility. Other works include Valeria Luiselli's "Lost Children Archive," which tells of young immigrants separated from their families, and Nicole Dennis-Benn's "Patsy," about a Jamaican woman's discovery that the U.S. is nothing like what she had imagined.

"I think there's been a real blossoming in novels about immigration," says Barnes & Noble fiction buyer Sesalee Hensley, who cites such works as Jean Kwok's "Searching for Sylvie Lee," about a family of Chinese immigrants. "Publishers have really been making an effort to bring in a wider range of voices."

Devi S. Laskar's first novel,

"The Atlas of Reds and Blues," follows the disheartening experience of an American-born daughter of Bengali immigrants when she moves her family to an Atlanta suburb. She began the book before Trump was elected, but found its narrative fit all too well with the current time.

"We are all experiencing the current administration together," Laskar says. "This story ends in 2010, but I feel like the seeds of what is happening started way back when."

Angie Kim began her first novel, "Miracle Creek," several years ago. But as she finished the final draft of her story about a Korean immigrant family at the center of a Virginia murder case, Trump had been elected. Kim began adding, not consciously at the time, material on immigration. "At first I was writing about language and the frustrations for people who think of themselves as smart and knowledgeable but find themselves in a place where they don't speak the language and they feel like a child again," she says. "But when I write some new scenes, in January and February of 2017, they were all centered around racism." Lalami has written four works of fiction, including the Pulitzer Prize finalist "The Moor's Account," drawing

upon her native Morocco. In "The Other Americans," she writes of a Moroccan immigrant's suspicious death on a California road. She started in 2014, in response to a health scare involving her father and to a recent wave of hate crimes against Muslims.

"A lot of people are interested in immigration because of Trump; he has brought a sense of urgency," said Lalami, a professor of creative writing at University of California at Riverside. "But as far as I'm concerned, the story would have been the same, although readers might find it more timely."

As several authors point out, their stories seem contemporary because the issues raised by the Trump presidency have been around for much of the country's past, whether the internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II or the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 or the racist Immigration Act of 1924.

"All of American history leads up to what's happening now," Ahmed said. Luiselli, a native of Mexico City, has written fiction and nonfiction and spoke with children facing deportation for the 2017 publication "Tell Me How It Ends: An Essay in 40 Questions." She began her novel in 2014, "long before Trump was part of this panorama." □

Stan Lee's devoted fans can mourn him at Hollywood memorial

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Stan Lee's devoted fans will have a chance to mourn him alongside his friends, family and co-creators at a memorial in Hollywood on Jan. 30, organizers announced Wednesday. Lee's company POW! Entertainment announced that it will honor the Marvel Comics mogul outside the TCL Chinese Theatre, where Lee's hand and footprints are in cement. The memorial's organizers include filmmaker and Lee super-fan Kevin Smith,

who will moderate a discussion of Lee's life and work that's set to include actors Mark Hamill and Vincent D'Onofrio and Wu Tang Clan member RZA. Smith, in a statement, called Lee "the literary titan of comic books" and "our modern-day Mark Twain."

The evening will include speakers, musical performances, an art exhibit, and costumes and props from Lee's creations and Marvel-movie cameos. Tickets for the public go on sale Wednesday evening,

with proceeds going to the Hero Initiative, a charity that supports struggling comic-book creators.

"Stan was a unique and unforgettable human being," Gill Champion, Lee's founding partner at POW!, said in a statement announcing the memorial. "He loved coming to work and creating new ideas and stories and in spite of his genius he was a relatable and kind man."

A private memorial is planned inside the venue immediately after. Lee, whose co-creations



This April 16, 2002 file photo shows Stan Lee, creator of comic-book franchises such as "Spider-Man," "The Incredible Hulk" and "X-Men," posing near a Spider-Man figure in his Santa Monica, Calif., office.

Associated Press

include Spider-Man, the Incredible Hulk and Black Panther, died Nov. 12 at age 95. He was laid to rest the same week in a small, private funeral. □

Ride-hailing subscriptions: Are they worth it?

By CATHY BUSSEWITZ

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The start of a new year often coincides with a surge in monthly memberships to gyms.

Ride-hailing services are hoping customers will think along the same lines about their transportation needs. Uber and Lyft recently launched subscription plans promising savings for those trips to the gym, to work or around town.

The ride-hailing companies stand to gain by increasing customer loyalty in a competitive market and securing more predictable revenue at a time when both are heading into an initial public offering.

But you should figure out if the numbers add up before committing to one ride provider.

"I think both these things should come with the caveat, 'buyer beware,'" said Keith Millhouse, a transportation consultant and principal at Millhouse Strategies.

Millhouse called Uber's subscription a "complete mystery," and he said getting value out of Lyft's plan was possible, but complicated. Others were more optimistic.

"If (riders) know they're going to be traveling enough or more than enough to take advantage of it, then by all means it's an opportunity for them to save money," said Steven Polzin, program director for mobility policy research at the Center for Urban Transportation Research, University of South Florida. "If you're on the margins, or you're an infrequent user, then you might not want to."

WHAT DO YOU GET WITH LYFT'S PLAN?

Lyft's All-Access Plan, available nationwide, costs \$299 and allows you to take 30 trips valued at up to \$15 over 30 days. If a ride goes over \$15, you pay the difference. After the first 30 trips, you get 5 percent off any additional rides.

WHO CAN BENEFIT FROM LYFT'S PLAN?

Riders who take very frequent trips in the \$10-\$15



In this Aug. 1, 2018, file photo, a woman uses a ride-hailing app while waiting for a ride outside Grand Central Terminal in New York.

range hit the sweet spot. Without the plan, 30 trips at \$15 each would cost \$450, so the plan could theoretically save you about \$150. At \$10 each, you would break even. But if your trips often cost less than \$10, you may end up paying more for those trips than you would have without the pass.

Another consideration is how many days you need transportation to work. Most full-time jobs include more than 20 work days per month, which means more than 40 trips.

A 30-ride plan may appeal to those who occasionally work from home because the alternative — a

monthly public transportation pass — often assumes five days of commuting per week so riders may be paying for trips they don't take. "As more and more people have started telecommuting, all of a sudden those price points (for public transit passes) aren't necessarily as attractive," Polzin said.

WHAT DO YOU GET WITH UBER'S PASS?

Uber rolled out a subscription program called "Ride Pass" in five U.S. cities: Los Angeles, Miami, Denver, Austin and Orlando. It costs \$14.99 in all of those cities except Los Angeles, where it costs \$24.99. Uber says the monthly fee gives riders discounts up to 15 percent

on all rides and protection from surge pricing, which is higher pricing triggered by peaks in demand during rush hour, special events or bad weather.

WHO CAN BENEFIT FROM UBER'S PASS?

Uber has been hearing from riders that they want more consistent prices. For example, some customers find that their ride to work is cheaper than their ride home, so having the pass can protect riders from an unforeseen spike, an Uber spokesman said.

The surge protection pricing could prove valuable if you frequently take Uber rides during peak times or at popular locations, say



In this Jan. 12, 2016 file photo, a ride share car displays Lyft and Uber stickers on its front windshield in downtown Los Angeles, Calif.

Associated Press

if you're a bartender who works at a trendy night club that has a crush of demand for rides as partiers head home.

"With surge protection, that could be a good deal," Polzin said. "If you knew you were traveling in places and times where there's surge pricing, you could save real money real fast."

WHAT ARE THE DOWNSIDES TO SUBSCRIPTIONS?

With Uber's pass, you don't get to see the price of your desired routes until you pay the fee, and some reviewers on Reddit and Twitter said they got the pass and then paid what they considered to be higher rates for rides.

Uber says that should not be happening, and if it is, riders should write to customer support. The company is using the pilot to collect feedback from riders before rolling it out in more cities.

Other Uber riders complained that the discounts amounted to pennies on short rides and \$1 on a ride worth \$60. "Savings are, on average, 15 percent to 20 percent, but can vary depending on how busy it is," said Michael Amodeo, spokesman for Uber, in an email. "For example, savings will typically be higher during commuting hours or nights and weekends when more people are opening up (and using) our app."

For Lyft's plan, there's a specific set of riders who would benefit, but if riders don't use all of their 30 trips in 30 days, they lose them.

"Like most of these platforms, they are a bigger benefit to companies when consumers don't fully take advantage of them," said Mike Ramsey, senior research director, automotive and smart mobility, at Gartner. "It's like a gym membership — the gym would be unbearable if everyone used it. Nonetheless, some people take great advantage of very low cost subscriptions."

"In many cases, however, the economic advantage just doesn't pencil out," Ramsey said. □